



Looking at Gender and Power in Primatology through a Decolonial Lens

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Primatology has been profoundly shaped by women, yet persistent gender inequalities continue to intersect with structural asymmetries. In this talk, I reflect on women's trajectories in primatology through three interconnected lenses: personal trajectories, scientific innovation, and institutional transformation. Drawing on field research, international collaborations, and leadership roles in scientific societies, I discuss the challenges and opportunities faced by women in the field, with particular attention to researchers and students in regions where primates live and where colonial legacies continue to structure scientific practice. My own path has made this intersection starkly visible: it has been shaped by foundational figures in Europe and the United States on one hand, and on the other by pioneering women of Brazilian primatology who built the discipline under precarious conditions. Inspired by these experiences, and by feminist frameworks linking gender inequality to coloniality, I argue that addressing gender in primatology requires a decolonial perspective, one that confronts uneven global patterns in knowledge production, funding, authorship, and leadership. Focusing on institutional change, I suggest that effective EDI initiatives must go beyond representation to address structural inequalities in access, mobility, recognition, and decision-making. I argue that meaningful inclusion requires redistribution, of resources, opportunities, and epistemic value, and ultimately will strengthen both science and scientific communities.