

1 **Social networks predict gut microbiome composition in wild baboons**

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24

25 Abstract

26 Social relationships have profound effects on health in humans and other primates, but
27 the mechanisms that explain this relationship are not well understood. Using shotgun
28 metagenomic data from wild baboons, we found that social group membership and social
29 network relationships predicted both the taxonomic structure of the gut microbiome and the
30 structure of genes encoded by gut microbial species. Rates of interaction directly explained
31 variation in the gut microbiome, even after controlling for diet, kinship, and shared
32 environments. They therefore strongly implicate direct physical contact among social partners in
33 the transmission of gut microbial species. We identified 51 socially structured taxa, which were
34 significantly enriched for anaerobic and non-spore-forming lifestyles. Our results argue that
35 social interactions are an important determinant of gut microbiome composition in natural animal
36 populations—a relationship with important ramifications for understanding how social
37 relationships influence health, as well as the evolution of group living.

38 **Introduction**

39 Vertebrate intestines are home to thousands of bacterial species that exert profound
40 effects on their hosts: they train the immune system, produce vitamins, help resist pathogens,
41 and contribute substantially to daily energy acquisition (Bergman 1990; Turnbaugh et al. 2006;
42 Hooper et al. 2012; Bengmark 2013; Morgan et al. 2013). In humans, inter-individual variation in
43 gut microbiome composition has repeatedly been linked to major health concerns, including
44 obesity, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and autoimmune disorders (e.g. Turnbaugh et al.
45 2009; Hooper et al. 2012; Bengmark 2013; Iida et al. 2013; Koeth et al. 2013; Viaud et al. 2013).

46 However, despite its importance, large gaps remain in our understanding of the forces
47 that shape gut microbiome composition. Among the least understood but potentially most
48 significant such forces are the effects of host social interactions. From an evolutionary
49 perspective, social effects on the gut microbiome may be an underappreciated consequence of
50 group living, associated with both fitness costs and benefits (Lombardo 2008; Archie & Theis
51 2011; Ezenwa et al. 2012; Montiel-Castro et al. 2013). For example, co-housing in lab mice
52 promotes the transmission of bacterial communities that contribute to inflammatory bowel
53 disease, implicating social relationships in microbiome-associated disease risk (Garrett et al.
54 2010). In bumblebees, socially transmitted gut bacteria protect against a widespread and
55 virulent gut parasite, suggesting that socially mediated microbial transmission can also confer
56 powerful benefits (Koch & Schmid-Hempel 2011). If social interactions predict gut microbiome
57 composition in free-living vertebrates as well, this link could help explain the strong association
58 between social interactions and health in highly social species (e.g. Berkman & Syme 1979;
59 House et al. 1988; Sapolsky 2004; Holt-Lunstad et al. 2010).

60 A handful of recent studies in humans and other primates provide circumstantial
61 evidence for social effects on the gut microbiome (Degnan et al. 2012; Kinross & Nicholson
62 2012; Yatsunenکو et al. 2012; Song et al. 2013). For instance, in wild chimpanzees, social
63 group membership predicts the identity and abundance of gut microbes, while kinship, age, and
64 sex do not (Degnan et al. 2012). In humans, shared residence predicts gut microbiome similarity
65 (Kinross & Nicholson 2012; Yatsunenکو et al. 2012; Song et al. 2013). To date, these effects
66 have largely been attributed to shared diets, as members of the same household or social group
67 tend to consume similar foods in similar proportions (Claesson et al. 2011; Kinross & Nicholson
68 2012; Yatsunenکو et al. 2012). However, social relationships could also shape gut microbiomes
69 more directly, via transmission from shared environments (Lax et al. 2014) or during physical
70 contact.

71 Differentiating between these mechanisms requires fine-grained data on social
72 interactions, shared environments, and diet. Such complementary data sets are rare, but are
73 frequently collected in long-term primate field studies. Here, we leveraged one such study, on
74 the intensively studied Amboseli baboons of Kenya (Alberts & Altmann 2012), to test whether
75 social group structure and social interactions within groups predict either the taxonomic or the
76 functional composition of the gut microbiome. Like humans, baboons are highly social, group-
77 living primates. Members of the same social group travel together, consume similar foods, and
78 drink from the same water sources. Within social groups, individuals selectively engage in
79 frequent affiliative grooming interactions, which solidify social bonds and have the potential to
80 mediate bacterial transmission. Within this context, we addressed three central questions. We
81 first asked (i) does social group membership predict gut microbiome composition, as shown for
82 humans and chimpanzees (Degnan et al. 2012; Kinross & Nicholson 2012; Yatsunenکو et al.
83 2012; Song et al. 2013)? We then asked two novel questions that have not been addressed in
84 prior studies: (ii) within social groups, do rates of social interactions (captured here by grooming-
85 based social networks) predict gut microbiome similarity after accounting for dietary patterns,
86 shared environments, and kinship? And (iii) which bacterial species, with what lifestyle traits, are
87 most likely to be socially transmitted, both between and within social groups?

88

89 **Results**

90 We generated shotgun metagenomic data for the distal gut using fecal samples from 48
91 members of two baboon social groups (“Mica’s group” or “Viola’s group”; one sample per
92 individual; Supplementary file 1). Together, these individuals represented almost complete
93 sampling (92%) of the adult members of both groups. Fecal samples were collected during a
94 single 1-month timespan to minimize developmental, temporal, and seasonal heterogeneity.
95 During this time, Mica’s group and Viola’s group exploited adjacent home ranges, with the
96 center of each range separated by just a few kilometers (Figure 1A).

97 Using the program MetaPhlAn 2.0 (Segata et al. 2012), we identified 925 bacterial and
98 archaeal taxa to the species level and quantified their relative abundance (364 ± 150 s.d.
99 species per sample; Figure 1- figure supplement 1; Supplementary files 2, 3; see
100 Supplementary files 3, 4 for parallel results using a *de novo* assembly approach). We also
101 identified and quantified the relative abundance of 9,013 microbial-encoded enzyme orthologs
102 using the HUMAnN pipeline (mean \pm SD = $2,746 \pm 560$ KEGG orthologs per sample Abubucker
103 et al. 2012; Figure 1 - figure supplement 3; Supplementary file 5). The taxa we found comprised
104 a typical primate gut microbiota, dominated by the phyla Firmicutes (mean \pm SD = $42.2\% \pm$

105 8.4%), Proteobacteria (13.0% \pm 2.8%), Actinobacteria (9.4% \pm 4.6%), and Bacteroidetes (7.3%
106 \pm 2.4%) (Figure 1 - figure supplement 1, 5; Supplementary file 6). In some samples, especially
107 those in Viola's group, we also detected a large contribution from the phylum Spirochaetes,
108 consistent with findings from other primates, ancient humans, and modern-day human hunter-
109 gatherers (De Filippo et al. 2010; Tito et al. 2012; Schnorr et al. 2014).

110

111 *Social group membership was the strongest single predictor of gut microbiome composition*

112 Across all 48 individuals, social group membership explained 18.6% of global variation in
113 gut microbial species composition (as summarized by a Bray-Curtis dissimilarity matrix;
114 PERMANOVA for social group effects: $p < 10^{-4}$; Figure 1C). Social group membership was also
115 the dominant source of variance in the abundance of enzyme gene orthologs encoded by gut
116 microbes, explaining 10.8% of global variance in a Bray-Curtis dissimilarity matrix
117 (PERMANOVA: $p = 0.003$; Figure 1D). In contrast, sex, age, and sequencing read depth made
118 comparatively minor or non-significant contributions to gut microbiome composition
119 (PERMANOVA: sex, age and read depth explained 3.6%, $p = 0.026$; 5.3%, $p = 0.052$; 6.0%, $p =$
120 0.024) of variance in taxonomic composition; no significant variation was explained by sex, age,
121 or read depth for enzyme gene orthologs). Furthermore, social group remained a strong and
122 significant predictor of taxonomic and enzyme gene ortholog composition even after controlling
123 for genetic relatedness between study subjects (partial Mantel test for taxonomic composition: r
124 $= 0.378$, $p < 10^{-5}$; for enzyme gene orthologs: $r = 0.140$, $p = 1.6 \times 10^{-3}$).

125

126 *Differences in gut microbiome composition between social groups were unlikely to be explained* 127 *by diet*

128 Previous associations between social proximity and gut microbial composition in humans
129 and other primates have largely been attributed to diet (Degnan et al. 2012; Kinross & Nicholson
130 2012; Yatsunenکو et al. 2012). However, the two social groups in our study inhabited a
131 relatively homogeneous savannah environment and exploited very similar resources. During the
132 sample collection period, half of each group's diet was devoted to grass corms, and similar
133 proportions were devoted to other food types, including grass seed heads, *Acacia tortilis* seed
134 pods, leaves (primarily grass blades), and *Acacia xanthophloea* gum (Figure 1B; Supplementary
135 file 7). The only diet component that differed significantly between the two groups was the
136 proportion devoted to fruit (permutation test: $p = 0.05$). However, we found no differences
137 between the two groups in the abundance of two common fruit-associated bacterial enzymes,
138 pectinesterase (p -value for social group in a linear mixed effects model: $p = 0.306$) and pectate

139 lyase (p-value for social group in a linear mixed effects model: $p = 0.869$). Furthermore, patterns
140 of differential taxonomic abundance between groups did not recapitulate differences associated
141 with differential consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables described in a human gut
142 microbiome data set (Davenport et al. 2014; see Materials and Methods).

143

144 *Grooming networks predicted gut microbiome composition within groups*

145 Despite few detectable differences in diet, unidentified environmental differences
146 between Mica's group and Viola's group could explain the differences in gut microbiome
147 composition we observed. To test whether social contacts *per se* predicted gut microbiome
148 composition, we turned to fine-grained data on within-group grooming interactions. Grooming is
149 by far the most common form of physical contact in baboons. Importantly, the strength of
150 grooming relationships between pairs of individuals in the same social group varies
151 considerably, despite the fact that all members of a social group travel together and use the
152 same resource base.

153 To test whether physical contact predicted gut microbiome composition, we constructed
154 grooming networks for each social group, using all grooming interactions observed in the year
155 prior to and during microbiome sampling (Figure 2A, B). We found that, in both groups, closer
156 grooming partners harbored more similar communities of gut bacteria (Mantel test between
157 Bray-Curtis microbiome dissimilarity matrices and social network matrices: Mica's group $r = -$
158 0.257 , $p = 3.0 \times 10^{-4}$; Viola's group $r = -0.173$, $p = 8.0 \times 10^{-4}$; Figs. 2C and 2D). This pattern was
159 not driven by host genetic effects: although female relatives have stronger grooming bonds,
160 controlling for pairwise relatedness still produced strong support for a relationship between
161 grooming and taxonomic composition for Viola's group (partial Mantel test controlling for kinship:
162 $r = -0.148$, $p = 2.0 \times 10^{-3}$), and a consistent trend in Mica's group (partial Mantel test controlling
163 for kinship: $r = -0.163$, $p = 0.060$). Interestingly, extending this analysis to the level of enzyme
164 gene orthologs suggested that close grooming partners also have functionally more similar gut
165 microbiomes. Grooming networks predicted variation in within-group enzyme gene ortholog
166 abundance for Mica's group (partial Mantel test controlling for kinship: $r = -0.22$, $p = 0.014$), but
167 not Viola's group (partial Mantel test controlling for kinship: $r = -0.051$, $p = 0.166$).

168 Despite the relative homogeneity of diet within social groups, our results could still be
169 explained by a diet-related mechanism if close grooming partners consumed more similar diets.
170 Alternatively, close social partners might experience similar environmental exposures if they
171 used more similar microenvironments in the group's home range. We tested these possibilities
172 directly, focusing on adult females for whom diet composition and spatial proximity data were

173 routinely collected (N = 11 females in Mica's group and N = 20 females in Viola's group).
174 Grooming network proximity also predicted microbiota composition in this restricted data set
175 (Mantel tests: Mica's group: $r = -0.328$, $p = 9.0 \times 10^{-3}$; Viola's group: $r = -0.228$, $p = 2.6 \times 10^{-3}$),
176 and remained a significant predictor of microbiota composition after accounting for dietary
177 similarity (partial Mantel test controlling for dietary similarity: Mica's group $p = 0.020$; Viola's
178 group: $p = 0.005$) and spatial proximity (partial Mantel test controlling for spatial proximity for
179 Mica's group $p = 0.039$; Viola's group: $p = 0.005$). Additionally, we found no evidence that close
180 social partners consumed more similar diets (Mantel tests: Mica's group: Mantel $r = -0.200$, $p =$
181 0.080 ; Viola's group: Mantel $r = 0.0942$, $p = 0.876$).

182

183 *Socially structured bacteria tended to be anaerobic and non-spore-forming*

184 We next investigated which bacterial species were associated with the strong signature
185 of social structure in our data set. To identify these 'socially structured' species, we focused on
186 the 327 most prevalent species in our data set (i.e. those found in $\geq 50\%$ of samples). Using a
187 mixed effects model controlling for age, sex, read depth, and host genetic relatedness, we
188 identified 64 species (19.6%, using a 10% false discovery rate) that were significantly
189 differentially abundant in the two social groups. We performed a complementary analysis, using
190 a test of spatial autocorrelation, to investigate whether close grooming partners exhibited similar
191 bacterial abundances within social groups as well (due to the larger sample size, we performed
192 these tests in Viola's group; see Materials and Methods). Among the same set of 327 prevalent
193 species, we found 51 species (15.6%, 10% false discovery rate) for which proximity within the
194 group's grooming network significantly predicted abundance (Supplementary file 8).
195 Interestingly, 15 species were significantly socially structured both between groups and within
196 social networks—more species than expected by chance (hypergeometric test, $p = 0.020$).

197 We next conducted an enrichment analysis to test whether the set of significantly
198 socially structured species contained some taxonomic groups more often than by chance. We
199 found that socially structured species were phylogenetically non-random at both between-group
200 and within social network levels of analysis (Figures 3A, B). Moreover, at both levels of analysis,
201 similar taxonomic groups were significantly enriched for socially structured species (red
202 asterisks on Figure 3), including the phylum Actinobacteria; the families Bifidobacteriaceae,
203 Coriobacteriaceae, and Veillonellaceae; and the genus *Bifidobacterium*, a group of Gram-
204 negative bacteria that has been linked to beneficial health effects in humans (Servin 2004;
205 Gronlund et al. 2007; Turrone et al. 2008). The striking similarities between the two levels of
206 analysis suggest that common underlying mechanisms—mediated by direct social contact

207 rather than diet or general physical proximity—account for both between-group differences and
208 grooming network effects within groups.

209 Finally, we extended our enrichment analysis to test whether the set of socially
210 structured species was enriched for particular bacterial lifestyles. We reasoned that, if socially
211 structured species depend on direct transmission between baboons, as our data suggest, they
212 should be less likely than other species to persist outside of a host. Thus, we predicted that
213 socially structured species would tend to be anaerobic and unable to produce spores. To test
214 these predictions, we turned to information about bacterial lifestyles available in the Genomes
215 OnLine Database (Pagani et al. 2012), using both species-level ($n = 138$) and genus-level ($n =$
216 299) traits (see Materials and Methods for trait assignment criteria). We found that socially
217 structured species were consistently enriched (relative to all species or genera tested) for an
218 anaerobic, non-spore forming lifestyle (Figure 3C; hypergeometric tests for socially structured
219 species between groups, species level traits: $p = 0.017$; socially structured species within group,
220 species level traits: $p = 0.067$; socially structured species between groups, genus level traits: p
221 $= 0.036$; socially structured species within group, genus level traits: $p = 0.040$). For instance,
222 17% of the species in this analysis differed significantly in abundance between social groups;
223 however 32% of anaerobic and non-spore forming species were significantly socially structured.
224 Notably, no species that were both aerobic and spore-forming were socially structured at the
225 level of social groups or social networks, except for one case in the genus-level analysis.

226

227 **Discussion**

228 Taken together, our results provide strong evidence that social interactions directly affect
229 the composition of the gut microbiome in wild baboons. To our knowledge, this study is the first
230 to test whether rates of interaction within cohabiting groups, as opposed to between groups or
231 households, explain variation in the gut microbiome. Specifically, we found that an individual's
232 contacts in a grooming-based social network, as well as its membership in a given social group,
233 were highly predictive of its gut microbiome composition at both the species and genic levels.
234 Unlike prior studies, we were able to exclude kinship, shared diet, and shared environment as
235 the basis for our observations. Our results are thus unique among studies to date in the degree
236 to which they implicate direct, affiliative physical contact as a determinant of gut microbiome
237 composition in natural populations. Our data also provide the first evidence in vertebrates that
238 social effects on the microbiome extend to its functional composition. These findings lend
239 important support to the hypothesis that social interactions play a role in the health-related
240 consequences of variation in gut microbiome composition (e.g. Turnbaugh et al. 2009; Hooper

241 et al. 2012; Bengmark 2013; Iida et al. 2013; Koeth et al. 2013; Viaud et al. 2013), with
242 potentially important consequences for the evolution of sociality (Lombardo 2008; Archie &
243 Theis 2011; Ezenwa et al. 2012; Montiel-Castro et al. 2013).

244 Thus, our results highlight the importance of socially mediated transmission in shaping
245 gut microbiomes. However, unlike some prior studies in mice and bumblebees (Garrett et al.
246 2010; Koch & Schmid-Hempel 2011), baboons are not coprophagic, raising a question about
247 the mechanisms that facilitate gut microbial transfer between social partners. One possibility is
248 that the duration and intimacy of grooming bouts, which include frequent hand-to-mouth contact,
249 may be important in exposing baboons to the gut bacteria of their grooming partners.
250 Furthermore, some grooming bouts, especially those directed from adult males to estrous
251 females, concentrate heavily on the ano-genital region, increasing the probability of fecal-oral
252 transfer. Such close contact may be especially important in the transmission of anaerobic, non-
253 spore-forming species, as these bacteria are not thought to persist for long periods of time
254 outside of a host (Wilson 2008). However, some relatively hardy bacterial species may also be
255 transmitted via social contact (VanderWaal et al. 2013), and recent modeling efforts suggest
256 that fecal-oral transmission can be highly efficient in socially structured host populations, even
257 when transmission is indirectly mediated through the soil (Nunn et al. 2011).

258 Interestingly, our observations suggest that social partners not only share more similar
259 sets of gut microbes, but also similar abundances of individual microbial species. One
260 explanation for this pattern is that when bacteria from a host colonize a social partner, they
261 arrive pre-adapted to occupy the available gut microbial niches in their new host (Walter & Ley
262 2011). Specifically, because members of a single bacterial species can have markedly different
263 gene contents, a given member of a gut microbial species may perform different functions and
264 in different hosts (Walter & Ley 2011; Costello et al. 2012). However, if social partners transmit
265 bacteria with similar capabilities to each other, these bacteria may serve similar functions in
266 both hosts and thus be found in similar abundances. This hypothesis could be further tested by
267 assessing if bacterial species isolated from social partners tend to represent shared strains that
268 perform similar biological functions.

269 In humans, affiliative physical contact (e.g. hugging, kissing, holding hands) is common
270 and may provide a similar route through which close social partners transmit gut bacteria. In
271 addition, surfaces in human homes may act as reservoirs for household-specific bacterial
272 communities (Lax et al. 2014), possibly facilitating social transmission through intermediate
273 surfaces. Future work, in both humans and animals, will be important to establishing the relative
274 importance and generality of socially mediated transmission. In particular, population genetic

275 studies have the potential to directly map the genetic structure of microbiome-associated
276 species onto the social structure of host populations to test whether close social partners tend to
277 share genetically more similar bacterial populations than non-partners (e.g. VanderWaal et al.
278 2013). Fine-grained studies of how gut microbial communities change in social species, before
279 and after perturbations to their social networks, will also be important for understanding the time
280 scales on which social transmission of microbes act. Such efforts would also contribute an
281 important longitudinal perspective. Our power to identify associations between social
282 relationships and microbiome composition in this study was probably facilitated by our sampling
283 scheme, which eliminated the contribution of temporal or seasonal effects. More comprehensive
284 long-term studies will be valuable for placing these effects in context, alongside concomitant
285 changes in season, diet, and resource use.

286 In humans, variation in the taxonomic and genic composition of the microbiome is
287 increasingly linked to health issues, such as obesity and autoimmune disorders (e.g. Turnbaugh
288 et al. 2009; Hooper et al. 2012; Bengmark 2013; Koeth et al. 2013). Health and survival in social
289 species (including humans and baboons) are also strongly associated with social relationships
290 (Berkman & Syme 1979; House et al. 1988; e.g. Sapolsky 2004; Silk et al. 2009; Holt-Lunstad et
291 al. 2010; Silk et al. 2010; Archie et al. 2014). However, few studies have connected these two
292 observations. By highlighting the strong relationship between microbiome composition and
293 social networks, our findings indicate the importance of further research in this area. One of the
294 most important unanswered questions is whether social network-mediated microbiome sharing
295 produces net fitness benefits or costs for hosts. Previous research on fecal-oral or social
296 network-mediated transmission has focused almost exclusively on pathogens or parasites.
297 Microbiome studies have the potential to broaden this perspective to include species with
298 beneficial effects. Indeed, while we found several socially structured taxa that have been
299 associated with pathogenic effects (e.g. *Fusobacterium spp*, *Campylobacter ureolyticus*), we
300 found several other bacteria thought to be beneficial to hosts. For example, members of the
301 phylum Actinobacteria, especially the genus *Bifidobacterium*, are commonly thought to have
302 probiotic effects in humans due to their role in complex carbohydrate digestion, pathogen
303 inhibition, and vitamin production (Servin 2004; Gronlund et al. 2007; Turrioni et al. 2008).
304 Understanding the balance between social transmission of pathogenic versus commensal or
305 beneficial bacteria thus promises to provide valuable new insight into the link between disease
306 risk and the evolution of sociality.

307

308 **Materials and Methods**

309 *Study subjects, sample collection, DNA extraction, and metagenomic data generation*

310 Study subjects were 48 wild, adult baboons living in the Amboseli ecosystem, a semi-
311 arid savannah in southern Kenya (Supplementary file 1). The baboons were studied as part of
312 the Amboseli Baboon Research Project (ABRP), which has been collecting continuous,
313 individual-based data on all the members of several baboon social groups since 1971 (Alberts
314 and Altmann, 2012). The specific subjects for this project represented near complete sampling
315 (92%) of all the adult members of two social groups, called "Mica's group" and "Viola's group".
316 The baboons are individually recognized by experienced observers, who visit each group
317 several times per week, year round, for 5-hour monitoring visits (Alberts and Altmann, 2012).

318 Distal gut microbiome composition was characterized using fecal samples collected
319 opportunistically from known individuals. All fecal samples were collected during a single 1-
320 month span in the dry season (7 July 2012 to 8 Aug 2012: Supplementary file 1). Samples were
321 collected within a few minutes of defecation, thoroughly mixed, and then preserved in 95%
322 ethanol (2:5 feces to ethanol). DNA was extracted from each sample using MO BIO's
323 PowerSoil® DNA Isolation kit, according to the manufacturer's instructions (MO BIO
324 Laboratories, Inc., Carlsbad, CA). For each individual, 200 ng of extracted DNA were prepared
325 for metagenomic sequencing on an Illumina HiSeq 2500 using the Kapa Biosystems Library
326 Prep kit (Kapa Biosystems, Wilmington, MA). Specifically, DNA samples were sheared to an
327 average size of 400 base pairs, ligated to barcoded adapters, and subjected to 100 base pair
328 paired end sequencing at the UCLA Neuroscience Genomics Core. In total, we generated 1.4
329 billion raw, paired-end Illumina sequences across all samples (mean \pm SD = 14.4 ± 13.7 million
330 read pairs per sample). All raw reads are deposited in the National Center for Biotechnology
331 Information (NCBI) Short Read Archive (BioProject PRJNA271618).

332

333 *Assessment of microbiome taxonomic composition using MetaPhlAn 2.0*

334 Species-level taxonomic abundances were inferred for all samples using MetaPhlAn 2.0
335 (Segata et al. 2012). MetaPhlAn 2.0 estimates the relative abundance of bacterial species by
336 mapping reads against a set of clade-specific marker sequences, which unequivocally identify
337 microbial clades at the species level or higher taxonomic levels. Based on 12,926 complete
338 bacterial genomes, MetaPhlAn 2.0 is able to provide clade-specific markers for a total of 3,848
339 bacterial species, 925 of which were detected in our data set (Supplementary files 2, 3).
340 Specifically, we mapped our sequence reads against the clade-specific markers using the "very-

341 sensitive-local" alignment mode implemented in Bowtie 2 (Langmeade et al. 2009). This mode
342 produces alignments that can be trimmed at one or both extremes in order to optimize the
343 alignment score. Because spurious or poor-quality reads are unlikely to match any of the pre-
344 defined marker sequences, no preprocessing of the metagenomic DNA sequences was
345 performed, as recommended by the authors. However, we tested the robustness of these
346 estimates by re-running MetaPhlAn 2.0 on a subset of our data after trimming the reads to
347 eliminate adapter sequences and bases with a quality score <20. Correlations between the
348 bacterial abundance estimates obtained using unprocessed data and those obtained using the
349 trimmed data were always above 0.97, confirming that MetaPhlAn 2.0 is indeed highly robust to
350 potential sequence artifacts.

351

352 *Assessment of enzyme gene family composition*

353 To investigate variation in the genic composition of the gut microbiome, we combined
354 information from the Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes database (KEGG: Kanehisa
355 et al. 2014; Kanehisa and Goto, 2000) with the HMP Unified Metabolic Analysis Network
356 (HUMANn) v0.99 pipeline (Abubucker et al. 2012). We first filtered the forward reads for quality
357 using USEARCH v7.0 (Edgar 2010). Specifically, for each sample, we (i) trimmed reads to a
358 length of 99 bases, (ii) excluded reads shorter than 99 bases, and (iii) excluded reads with
359 expected error (a measure of read quality in USEARCH based on base call quality and read
360 length) >0.5.

361 An average of 87.9% of all reads passed quality filtering (Figure 1 – figure supplement
362 4). Remaining reads were translated in all three possible reading frames and aligned against a
363 reduced KEGG database (last free version, June 2011) using the *ublast* function of USEARCH
364 v7.0 and default parameters. The reduced KEGG database was generated by removing entries
365 for which no KEGG orthology (KO) assignments existed and subsequently clustering each KO
366 individually (*uclust* v1.5.579, using 85% sequence identity as the clustering cutoff) (Edgar, 2010;
367 Kanehisa and Goto, 2000; Kanehisa et al. 2014). This database was converted to a USEARCH-
368 compatible database file prior to running *ublast*. An average of 23.0% of the input reads across
369 all samples were assigned an identity from the KEGG database (Figure 1 – figure supplement
370 4). Finally, the *ublast* output was used as input for HUMANn. HUMANn was configured
371 to generate KO abundances from BLAST hits of enzymes as well as coverage and abundances
372 for KEGG pathways and modules.

373

374 *Social group membership and microbiome composition*

375 To investigate the correlation between social group membership and the composition of
376 baboon gut microbiomes, we constructed separate summaries of the complete taxonomic
377 composition data set from MetaPhlAn 2.0 and the complete enzyme gene ortholog abundance
378 data set from HUMAnN. Specifically, for each data set, we used the *vegdist* function in the R
379 package *vegan* (Okansen et al. 2013) to calculate a 48 x 48 Bray-Curtis dissimilarity matrix,
380 which describes the global dissimilarity in gut microbial composition between each pair of
381 individuals in the data set. To understand sources of variance in these matrices, we performed
382 PERMANOVA analyses (*adonis* function in *vegan*) with 10,000 permutations. In addition to
383 social group, predictor variables in this analysis were age, sex, and total read depth. Sex was
384 known from direct observation of the study subjects. Ages were known to within a few days'
385 error for 39 of the 48 individuals in the data set. The remaining 9 individuals immigrated into the
386 population after birth, and so their ages were estimated using well-defined metrics and
387 comparison to known-age animals (Alberts & Altmann 1995). Of these 9 individuals, 6 animals
388 had birth dates estimated to be accurate within 1 year, and 3 animals had birth dates estimated
389 to be accurate within 2 years. All study subjects were adults (i.e., all females had attained
390 menarche, and all males had attained adult dominance rank; Onyango et al. 2013).

391 To assess the possible confounding effects of kinship, we constructed a matrix of
392 pairwise genetic relatedness values from the extensive pedigree data available for the Amboseli
393 population (e.g., Buchan et al. 2003; Alberts, Buchan and Altmann, 2006; current pedigree
394 includes 1409 individuals, with 1298 known maternal links and 526 known paternal links) using
395 the R package *pedantics* (Morrissey and Wilson, 2010). We then used partial Mantel tests to
396 assess the correlation between a matrix describing group co-residency (cells took a value of 1 if
397 two individuals resided in different groups and a value of 0 if they were co-resident) and the
398 Bray-Curtis dissimilarity matrix for taxonomic composition, controlling for the pairwise genetic
399 relatedness matrix.

400

401 *Differences in diet between social groups*

402 To assess differences in diet between the two social groups, we used direct
403 observations of the food consumed by adult female baboons in each group during the month in
404 which samples were collected. Diet composition data were collected in the context of random-

405 order focal animal sampling (Altmann, 1974). Specifically, ABRP observers spent 4 hours of
406 each group visit rotating through the group, conducting focal animal samples on adult females in
407 the order dictated by a randomized list. Each focal animal sample was 10 minutes long, during
408 which activity (feeding, walking, resting etc.) was recorded during point samples collected at 1-
409 minute intervals. When feeding was observed (353 point samples in Mica's group and 731 point
410 samples in Viola's group), the observers recorded the type of food consumed. Food types were
411 divided into 7 categories, including: (1) corms of all grass species, (2) seed heads of all grass
412 species, (3) pods from *Acacia tortilis* and *A. xanthophloea* (4) fruits, including those from *Azima*
413 *tetracantha*, *Salvadora persica*, *Solanum dubium*, *Trianthema ceratosepala*, and *Tribulus*
414 *terrestris*, (5) leaves from *Lyceum* sp. and all grass species, (6) gum from *A. xanthophloea*, and
415 (7) unknown/unidentified diet items (Supplementary file 7).

416 To calculate the contribution (including confidence intervals) of each of the seven major
417 food categories to each group's diet, we conducted 1000 random subsamples of one foraging
418 point sample per focal animal sample. We took this approach to avoid autocorrelation between
419 point samples collected during the same 10-minute focal sample. To test for differences in diet
420 between groups, we repeated the same analysis after randomly permuting group membership
421 across the females in our data set. We calculated the proportion of cases in which between-
422 group differences in the proportion of a food consumed exceeded between-group differences in
423 the 1000 permuted data sets. This proportion is equivalent to the p-value for the null hypothesis
424 that the two groups did not differ in diet.

425 Because we detected a nominally significant difference ($p = 0.05$) in the amount of fruit
426 consumed by the members of Mica's group (7.9%, 95% CI: 0.0 – 8.3%) and the members of
427 Viola's group (2.2%, 95% CI: 1.0 – 7.3%) during the sampling period, we also compared our
428 results to a published data set of seasonal differences in gut microbiome composition in humans
429 (Davenport et al. 2014). These differences are believed to be the result of differences in
430 consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables. Only three genera were detected as both
431 significantly differentially abundant in the diet-related human data set (FDR = 10%) and
432 significantly enriched for differential abundance between social groups in our data set, at a
433 conservative (for comparative purposes) threshold of $p \leq 0.05$. *Bifidobacterium* was more
434 abundant in humans when they consumed less fresh fruit; *Prevotella* and *Treponema* were
435 more abundant when they consumed more fresh fruit. In our data set, however, *Bifidobacterium*
436 levels were more abundant in Mica's group, which consumed more fruit, and *Prevotella* and

437 *Treponema* species were more abundant in Viola's group, which consumed less fruit,
438 suggesting that the patterns we observed are due to other sources of variance.

439

440 *Social interactions and microbiome composition within groups*

441 To test whether grooming-based social networks predicted gut microbiome similarity, we
442 constructed grooming networks based on *ad lib* observations of grooming interactions collected
443 in the year prior to and including the period of microbiome sampling (8 August 2011 to 8 August
444 2012: 1,648 total interactions, with 667 in Mica's group and 981 in Viola's group). *Ad lib*
445 grooming interactions were collected throughout the monitoring visit while observers were
446 carrying out focal animal sampling. *Ad lib* grooming data were used to calculate a count of
447 observed grooming interactions between all adult dyads present in each social group (range = 0
448 to 41 interactions per dyad). These data were used to construct a matrix of grooming
449 relationship strength by scoring the strongest dyadic grooming relationship in each group as a 1
450 and weighting all other dyadic relationships relative to this strongest bond. We then used Mantel
451 tests to investigate the strength of the correlation between group-specific grooming networks
452 and group-specific Bray-Curtis dissimilarity matrices, constructed as described above. We used
453 partial Mantel tests to assess whether grooming network-microbiome dissimilarity matrix
454 correlations were driven by kinship (represented using pedigree-based pairwise relatedness
455 estimates).

456 To investigate alternative explanations for social network effects on the microbiome, we
457 collated data on diet and spatial proximity for members of each social group, focusing on adult
458 females only (comparable data were not available for adult males). Parallel to the time span for
459 social network construction, we compiled data for the year prior to and including the month of
460 microbiome sampling. For diet, we extracted all foraging-related point samples from the females
461 in our microbiome data set (1,380 points in Mica's group; 1,989 points in Viola's group). We
462 subsampled each data set so that only one point sample was represented per focal sample,
463 which avoids autocorrelation between point samples collected during the same focal. We then
464 constructed a table of the proportion of foods consumed per female, for each group separately,
465 and used this table to calculate group-specific, diet-based Bray-Curtis dissimilarity matrices. For
466 spatial proximity, we calculated the percent of time all adult female dyads spent within 5 m of
467 each other during the same time period. Specifically, during each focal animal sample, the
468 nearest adult female neighbor within 5 m is recorded at each 1-minute point sample (893 points
469 in Mica's group; 1,637 points in Viola's group; range = 0 – 64 points per dyad). The proximity

470 score between each pair of females (within groups) was calculated as the total number of point
 471 samples in which they were each other's nearest neighbors divided by the total number of point
 472 samples collected for each member of the dyad.

473

474 *Identification of socially structured taxa*

475 To identify differentially abundant bacterial taxa by social group membership, we used
 476 the linear mixed model approach implemented in the program GEMMA (Zhou and Stephens,
 477 2012), which allowed us to account for potential kinship effects in our data set. This approach
 478 assumes that the response variable (taxon abundance) is continuously distributed. To meet this
 479 assumption, we used methods established for analyzing high-throughput functional genomic
 480 data sets (Rapaport et al. 2013). Specifically, we first quantile normalized abundance values
 481 across individuals, focusing only on the 327 most prevalent taxa (i.e. those found in at least
 482 50% of hosts based on our MetaPhlAn 2.0 analysis, regardless of abundance), and then
 483 transformed the distribution of values for each species to a standard normal. We then fit the
 484 following linear mixed model to the data for each species:

$$y = \mu + x\beta_x + a\beta_a + s\beta_s + r\beta_r + u + \varepsilon,$$

$$u \sim MVN(0, \sigma_u^2 K),$$

$$\varepsilon \sim MVN(0, \sigma_\varepsilon^2 I)$$

485 Here, y is the n by 1 vector of normalized taxon abundances for the n individuals in the
 486 sample; μ is the intercept; x is the n by 1 vector denoting social group membership; and β_x is the
 487 effect size of social group membership. For the other covariates, a is the n by 1 vector denoting
 488 age and β_a describes its effects on taxon abundance; s is the n by 1 vector denoting sex and β_s
 489 its effect size; and r is the n by 1 vector denoting read depth and β_r its effect size. The n by 1
 490 vector of u is a random effects term to control for relatedness, and the n by n matrix K provides
 491 pedigree-based estimates of relatedness. Residual errors are represented by ε , an n by 1
 492 vector, and MVN denotes the multivariate normal distribution. We interpreted significantly non-
 493 zero β_x values as support for differences in taxon abundance between social groups, using a
 494 false discovery rate threshold of 10% (Storey and Tibshirani, 2003) after checking that an
 495 empirically derived null distribution of p-values for this analysis was uniform (Figure 3 – figure
 496 supplement 1).

497 To identify socially structured bacterial taxa within baboon social groups, we utilized a
 498 test of spatial autocorrelation, Moran's I , as implemented in the function *Moran.I* in the R
 499 package *ape* (Paradis, Claude and Strimmer, 2004). This analysis tests whether individuals with

500 closer social bonds (as measured by the pairwise matrix of grooming strengths) tend to have
501 more similar values for taxon abundance than those with weak or absent social bonds. Here, we
502 again investigated the 327 most prevalent species from the MetaPhlAn 2.0 analysis. For this
503 analysis, our power was constrained by the number of individuals in the social group. Thus,
504 while we identified a large number of socially structured species within Viola's group ($n = 51$ of
505 327 species tested, at a false discovery rate of 10%), we did not observe strong evidence for
506 socially structured species within Mica's group. Further investigation suggests this result is a
507 consequence of sample size, as subsampling Viola's group ($n = 29$ individuals) to the size of
508 Mica's group ($n = 19$ individuals) also resulted in little power to detect socially structured
509 species. More than half of the time (58% of 100 random subsamples), fewer than 5 such cases
510 were detected in Viola's group after subsampling, and more than a third of the time (35%) no
511 cases could be detected with the smaller sample size. Hence, we focused on results from
512 Viola's group. We again used a 10% FDR threshold to identify significant taxa in this analysis,
513 after ensuring that the empirical null distribution was uniform (Figure 3 – figure supplement 2).

514 For both between-group and within-group analyses, we investigated enrichment of
515 socially structured species in taxonomic units above the level of species (i.e., phylum, class,
516 order, family, and genus) using hypergeometric tests. We required that taxonomic units include
517 at least 4 species in our analysis to test for significant enrichment, and again employed an FDR
518 threshold of 10%.

519

520 *Bacterial life style analysis*

521 Descriptive data on bacteria were retrieved from the Genomes OnLine Database
522 (GOLD; Pagani et al. 2012). This information included records for 34,533 unique entries and
523 was downloaded from the GOLD website using a custom script on 02 June 2014 (available on
524 GitHub at <https://github.com/jklynch/scrape>). Each record included fields for oxygen
525 requirements and sporulation, as well as taxonomic classifications from the kingdom to species
526 levels. We retained only completely sequenced genomes, and filtered this set to the entry, for
527 any given species, associated with the most information about bacterial lifestyle and phenotype
528 ($n = 3,818$ unique species in 1,280 unique genera). To assign "genus-level" traits, we kept only
529 genera in which all species in our filtered database were associated with the same trait value, if
530 assigned (e.g., we assigned an anaerobic lifestyle to a genus only when all members of the
531 genus were consistently anaerobic).

532 To investigate properties of significantly socially structured species, we merged the set
533 of 327 prevalent species with the set of species with known lifestyle information. 138 species
534 were represented in both sets; the comparable analysis at the genus level yielded $n = 299$
535 genera in both sets. We then applied hypergeometric tests to these data sets to ask whether
536 socially structured species or genera, either between or within groups, were enriched for
537 anaerobic, non-spore forming life-styles. Our results were broadly robust to whether anaerobes
538 are distinguished in contrast to aerobes or in contrast to both aerobes and facultatively oxygen
539 tolerant species (socially structured species between groups, species level traits: $p = 0.025$;
540 socially structured species within group, species level traits: $p = 0.100$; socially structured
541 species between groups, genus level traits: $p = 0.056$; socially structured species within group,
542 genus level traits: $p = 0.050$).

543

544 *Alternative assessment of microbiome taxonomic composition using de novo assembled contigs*

545 As an alternative to taxonomic profiling using MetaPhlAn 2.0, we also performed *de*
546 *novo* contig assembly using the complete set of 1.4 billion raw reads. This approach allowed us
547 to evaluate whether our results were robust to our methods for estimating species abundance.
548 Reads were assembled *de novo* using Ray Meta, a short read de Bruijn assembler specifically
549 devised for metagenome data, following the authors' recommendations (Boisvert et al. 2012).
550 Bacterial proportions for each sample were then estimated using Ray Communities, utilizing all
551 bacterial genomes available in GenBank and the Greengenes taxonomy as a reference
552 (DeSantis et al. 2006). Summary statistics for alpha diversity and bacterial abundances
553 estimated for each sample from the *de novo* assemblies can be found in Supplementary files 3
554 and 4.

555 Across all 48 samples, we identified 1,465 taxa that could be identified to the species
556 level. Similar to our results using MetaPhlAn 2.0, we identified substantial representation of
557 phyla typically found in gut microbiomes, including Bacteroidetes, Firmicutes, Proteobacteria,
558 and Actinobacteria (Figure 1 – figure supplement 1). The *de novo* assembly, however, identified
559 a very large contribution of the phylum Spirochaetes in Viola's group (mean = 23.7%), which
560 was primarily driven by the abundance of reads mapping to the bacteria *Treponema*
561 *succinifaciens*. Notably, we also identified *T. succinifaciens* as significantly more abundant in
562 Viola's group members than in Mica's group members using the MetaPhlAn approach ($p = 2.46$
563 $\times 10^{-10}$). Thus, while our two approaches differed in the magnitude of this effect, the overall
564 pattern was highly consistent.

565 The relationship between social group membership and gut microbiome composition
566 using the *de novo* assembly approach broadly recapitulated the results using MetaPhlAn-based
567 estimates (Figure 2 – figure supplement 1). Specifically, social group membership explained
568 32.8% of global variation in gut microbial taxonomic composition, as summarized by a pairwise
569 Bray-Curtis dissimilarity matrix (PERMANOVA: $p < 1.0 \times 10^{-4}$). Kinship did not explain this
570 relationship (partial Mantel test relating group co-residency to taxonomic composition,
571 controlling for pedigree-based kinship: $r = 0.434$, $p < 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$). Additionally, the *de novo*
572 assembly approach again revealed that, within groups, closer grooming partners harbored more
573 similar gut microbes (Mica's group: Mantel test $r = -0.197$, $p = 0.016$; Viola's group: $r = -0.147$, p
574 $= 1.9 \times 10^{-3}$). However, while this relationship survives correcting for kinship in Viola's group ($r =$
575 -0.112 , $p = 0.017$), it is not statistically detectable after controlling for kinship in Mica's group ($r =$
576 -0.091 , $p = 0.20$). This pattern recapitulates our observations in the MetaPhlAn analysis, in
577 which within group structuring of the microbiome tended to be weaker in Mica's group as well.

578 We next restricted the within-group grooming network analysis to adult females only, in
579 order to test for alternative explanations for the grooming-microbiome composition effect.
580 Grooming interactions remained a significant predictor of microbiome composition after
581 accounting for both within-group patterns of dietary similarity (partial Mantel controlling for
582 dietary similarity: Mica's group $p = 0.038$; Viola's: $p = 0.006$) and spatial proximity in Viola's
583 group (partial Mantel controlling for proximity: Viola's: $p = 0.009$). In Mica's group, controlling for
584 proximity produced a consistent trend with our main analyses, but eliminated the strong
585 statistical signal of grooming on microbiome composition (Mica's group $p = 0.124$). We surmise
586 that patterns of proximity, kinship, and grooming may be too closely correlated in Mica's group
587 to disentangle in the *de novo* assembly-based data set, which may produce noisier estimates of
588 taxonomic abundance.

589

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603

604 **Data accessibility**

605 Raw metagenomic sequencing data are deposited in NCBI's Short Read Archive
606 (BioProject PRJNA271618). The custom script to download data from the Genomes Online
607 Database (GOLD; Pagani et al. 2012) is available on GitHub at
608 <https://github.com/jklynch/scrape>. Taxonomic and genic abundance data with sample metadata
609 available on Dryad at doi:10.5061/dryad.8gp03 (Tung et al 2015) and are uploaded as
610 supplementary files associated with this manuscript.

611

612 **Author contributions**

613 J.T., L.B.B., R.B., and E.A.A. designed the study; L.G. and E.A.A. collected the samples;
614 J.A. and S.C.A. contributed behavioral, life history, and demographic data; J.T., L.B.B., M.B., J-
615 C. G., J.L., R.B., L.G., and E.A.A. analyzed the data; J.T., L.B.B., J.A., S.C.A., R.B., and E.A.A.
616 provided funding support; and J.T., L.B.B, M.B., R.B., and E.A.A. wrote the paper, with input
617 from all authors.

618

619 **Competing interests**

620 The authors declare no competing interests.

621

622 **Ethics**

623 All protocols were noninvasive and adhered to the laws and guidelines of Kenya (Kenya
624 Research Permit numbers NCST RRI/12/1/SS011/1543 to EAA, NCST/RCD/12B/012/57 to JT,
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628

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764 **Figure titles and legends**

765 **Figure 1. Social group membership predicts microbiome composition. (A)** Group home
 766 ranges in the year prior to and during sample collection. **(B)** Diet composition during sample
 767 collection. Only the proportion of fruit consumed significantly differed between groups ($p = 0.05$;
 768 Supplementary file 7). Principal coordinates plots of Bray-Curtis dissimilarity matrices for **(C)**
 769 taxonomic (Supplementary file 2) and **(D)** KEGG enzyme ortholog composition of individual gut
 770 microbiomes (Supplementary file 5). Social group membership explained significant variation in
 771 gut microbial composition (PERMANOVA: $r^2 = 0.186$, $p < 10^{-4}$) as well as gut microbial enzyme
 772 ortholog composition ($r^2 = 0.108$, $p = 0.003$). Relative abundances of common bacterial phyla
 773 and KEGG enzyme orthologs are shown in Figure 1 – figure supplement 1, 2. A rarefaction
 774 analysis of species-level sampling is shown in Figure 1 – figure supplement 3. The results if the
 775 HUMAnN pipeline are shown in Figure 1 – figure supplement 4. A comparison between baboon
 776 and human microbiome composition across body sites is shown in Figure 1 – figure supplement
 777 5.

778 **Figure 2. Grooming-based social networks predict microbiome composition.** Social
 779 networks based on grooming interactions in the year prior to and including the month of
 780 microbiome sampling in **(A)** Mica's and **(B)** Viola's social groups. Each circle represents an
 781 individual (with the individual's ID listed within the circle). Lines represent grooming interactions
 782 between individuals, and heavier lines reflect stronger grooming relationships. **(C, D)** Violin plots
 783 depicting the relationships between pairwise grooming bond strength versus pairwise Bray-
 784 Curtis dissimilarity in taxonomic composition in Mica's and Viola's groups, respectively. White
 785 dots represent median values and grey rectangles represent the 1st and 3rd quartiles of the data.
 786 Rotated kernel density plots representing the underlying data are shown on each side. Stronger
 787 bonds predict more similar gut microbiotas in both groups (Mica's group: Mantel test $r = -0.257$,
 788 $p = 3.0 \times 10^{-4}$; Viola's group: $r = -0.173$, $p = 8.0 \times 10^{-4}$). Parallel results based on de novo
 789 assembly are shown in Figure 2 – figure supplement 1.

790 **Figure 3. Socially structured species are taxonomically and phenotypically nonrandom.**
 791 Bacterial taxonomic groups significantly enriched (10% FDR) for socially structured species **(A)**
 792 between social groups and **(B)** within the grooming network for Viola's group (Supplementary
 793 file 8). Vertical dashed lines depict a fold enrichment of 1, representing the background level of
 794 taxon abundance in the data set. Red asterisks denote taxonomic groups identified at both

795 levels of analysis. **(C)** Significant enrichment of anaerobic, non-spore-forming bacterial taxa,
796 both between and within groups, at both species and genus levels (socially structured species
797 between groups, species level traits: $p = 0.017$; socially structured species within group, species
798 level traits: $p = 0.067$; socially structured species between groups, genus level traits: $p = 0.036$;
799 socially structured species within group, genus level traits: $p = 0.040$). See Figure 3 – figure
800 supplements 1 and 2 for a comparison of the enrichment of p-values in our data set versus an
801 empirical null distribution.
802

803 ADDITIONAL FILE TYPES

804 Figure supplements and legends

805 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 1. Proportional representation of common phyla in each**
806 **sample.** The OTU table generated using MetaPhlAn 2.0 was collapsed to the level of the
807 phylum for each sample. Phyla that were not represented at $\geq 1\%$ in at least one of sample are
808 summed and presented as “rare phyla.” Samples from Mica’s group are clustered on the left
809 and those from Viola’s group on the right.

810 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 2. Proportional representation of common KEGG orthologs**
811 **in each sample, summarized as pathways.** The KEGG pathway abundances generated using
812 HUMAnN were filtered to only include those represented at $\geq 1\%$ in at least one sample and are
813 presented as stacked bar plots. Samples from Mica’s group are clustered on the left and those
814 from Viola’s group on the right.

815 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 3. Rarefaction analyzes of shotgun metagenomic data.** Plot
816 (A) shows the number of species found in each sample as a function of the number of paired-
817 end reads down-sampled from the full data set. The number of species reported in each data
818 point corresponds to the average number of species over 10 randomly resampled data sets
819 (restricted to species detected at an abundance $>0.01\%$ in the sample, based on the logic that
820 very rare species are more likely to represent assignment errors). In each random re-sampling,
821 we down-sampled the number of reads and re-ran the subsampled sequences through the
822 MetaPhlAn 2.0 pipeline to obtain a count of the number of species represented in each down-
823 sampled data set. Plot (B) depicts a parallel analysis to (A), but limited to the 327 most
824 prevalent species in our data set.

825 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 4. HUMAnN pipeline results. (A)** Percentage of reads retained
826 following quality filtering in *usearch*, per sample. **(B)** Percentage of pass-filter reads aligned
827 against an entry in the reduced KEGG database, per sample.

828 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 5. PCA projection of baboon gut microbiome data and**
829 **Human Microbiome Project data collected from different body sites.** Gut microbiome data
830 from baboons most closely resembles gut microbiome data from humans. The first principal
831 component of the microbiome data separates out data from different body sites; the second
832 principal component separates baboon gut microbiome data from human gut microbiome data.

833 **Figure 2 – figure supplement 1. Evidence for social structuring of the gut microbiome**
834 **based on *de novo* assembly.** Estimating gut microbiome taxonomic composition by
835 comparison to *de novo* bacterial genome assemblies also produces congruent evidence for
836 social structuring. **(A)** Proportional representation of common phyla in each sample, grouping
837 phyla not present at >1% in at least one sample together are “rare phyla.” **(B)** Principal
838 coordinates projection for individuals from Mica’s group and Viola’s group separates samples by
839 social group along the first axis. **(C)** Strength of pairwise grooming relationships, and thus within
840 group social structure, explains levels of similarity and dissimilarity in gut microbiome taxonomic
841 composition. Data are shown for Mica’s group.

842 **Figure 3 – figure supplement 1. Enrichment of low p-values in the data versus an**
843 **empirical null: between group analyses.** To confirm that our modeling approach (quantile
844 normalization of species relative abundances, followed by mixed effects modeling in GEMMA)
845 did not bias us towards detecting false positives, we compared the signal in our true data set
846 against an empirically derived null. The histogram distribution of p-values for the true data (gold)
847 is plotted against the distribution of p-values from 10 permutations (blue). In each permutation,
848 group membership was scrambled across the data set while keeping the modeling approach,
849 kinship structure, and all other covariates constant. The inset shows a quantile-quantile plot of
850 the same data, with clear enrichment of differentially abundant species in the actual data versus
851 the empirical null. No differentially abundant species are detected at a 10% FDR in the
852 permuted data sets, while 64 are discovered in the true data set.

853 **Figure 3 – figure supplement 2. Enrichment of low p-values in the data versus an**
854 **empirical null: within group network analysis.** To confirm that our modeling approach
855 (Moran’s I statistic within Viola’s group) did not bias us towards detecting false positives, we
856 compared the signal in our true data set against an empirically derived null. The histogram
857 distribution of p-values for the true data (gold) is plotted against the distribution of p-values from
858 10 permutations (blue). In each permutation, species abundance was scrambled across group
859 members while keeping the modeling approach and social network structure constant. The inset

860 shows a quantile-quantile plot of the same data, with clear enrichment of socially structured
861 species in the actual data versus the empirical null. No socially structured species are detected
862 at a 10% FDR in the permuted data sets, while 51 are discovered in the true data set.

863

864 **Supplementary Files**

865 **Supplementary file 1.** Table listing all subject and sample characteristics.

866 **Supplementary file 2.** Table listing the relative abundance of microbial species in each
867 sample inferred via MetaPhlAn 2.0.

868 **Supplementary file 3.** Table listing species richness and alpha diversity for each
869 sample based on taxonomic profiling using MetaPhlAn 2.0 and *de novo* contig assembly.

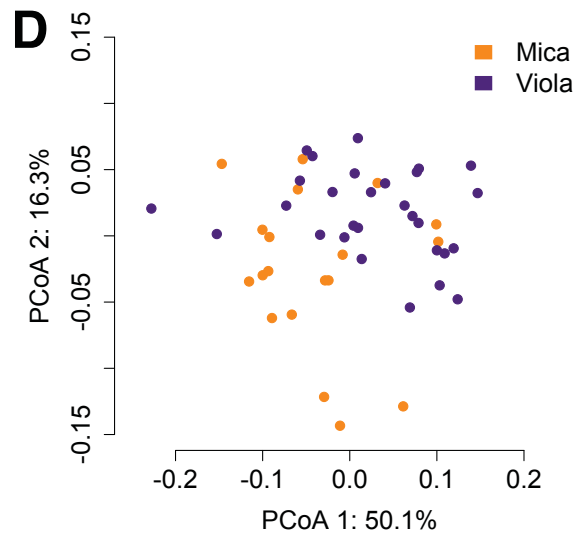
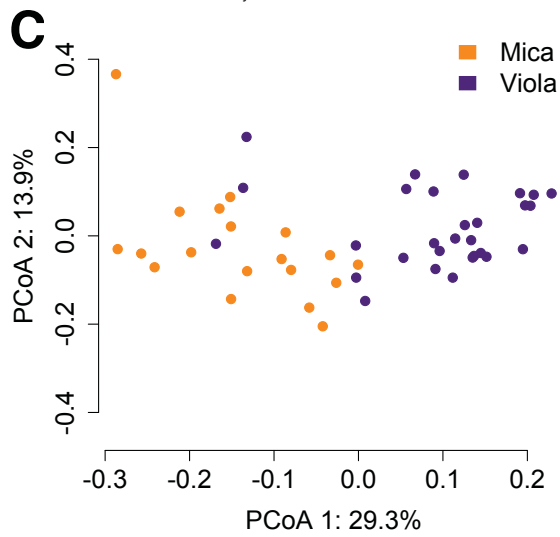
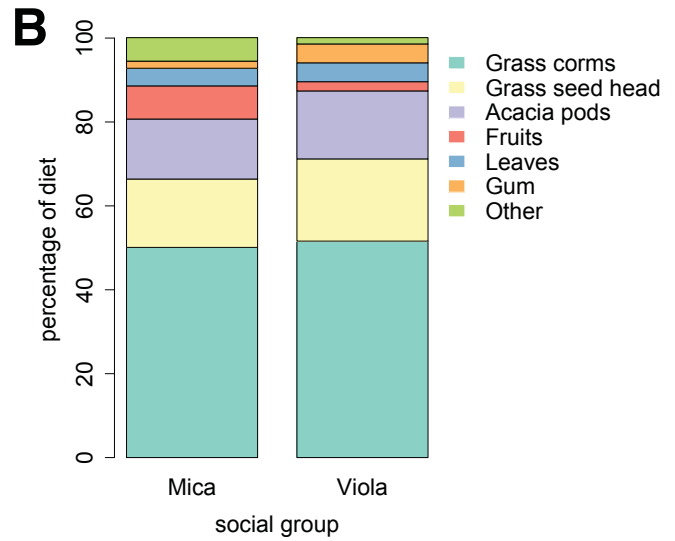
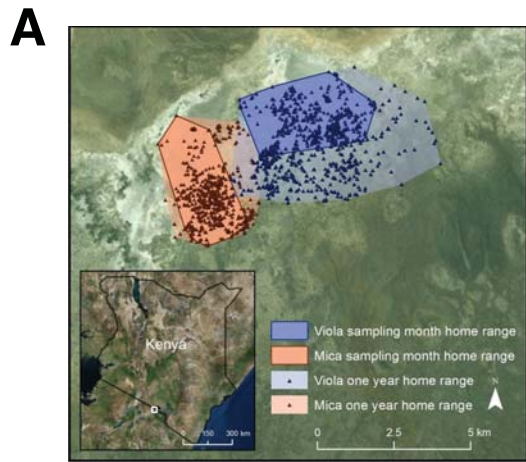
870 **Supplementary file 4.** Table listing species proportional abundance for each sample
871 based on *de novo* contig assembly.

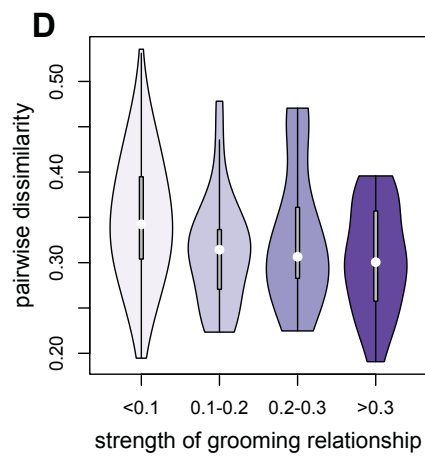
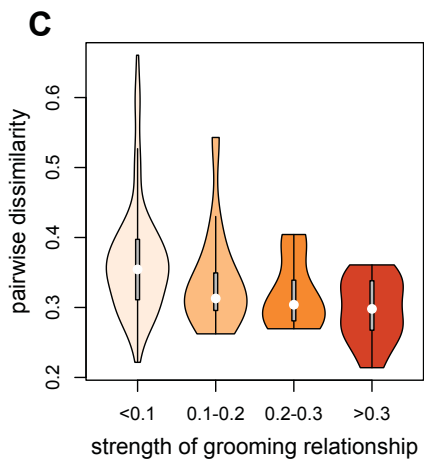
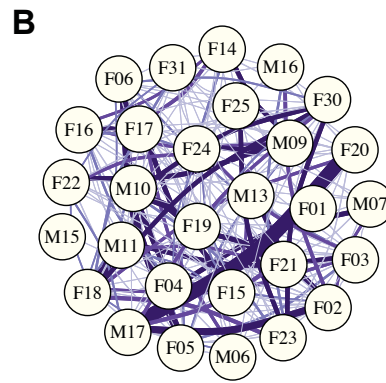
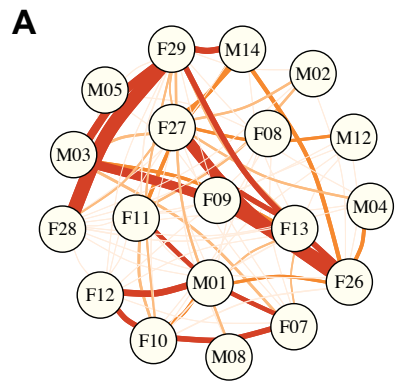
872 **Supplementary file 5.** Table listing the relative abundance of enzyme gene orthologs in
873 each sample.

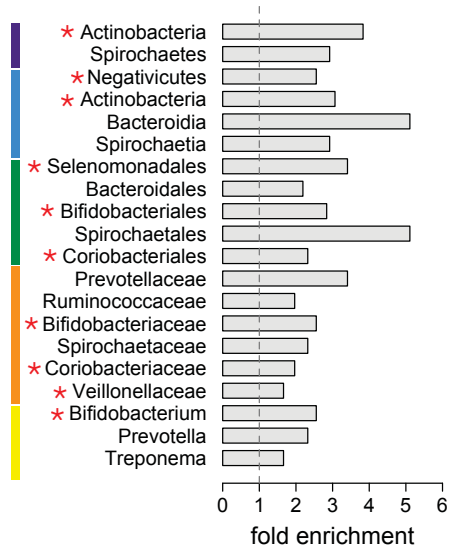
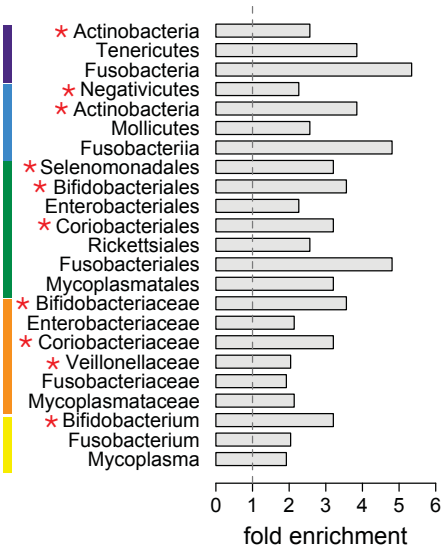
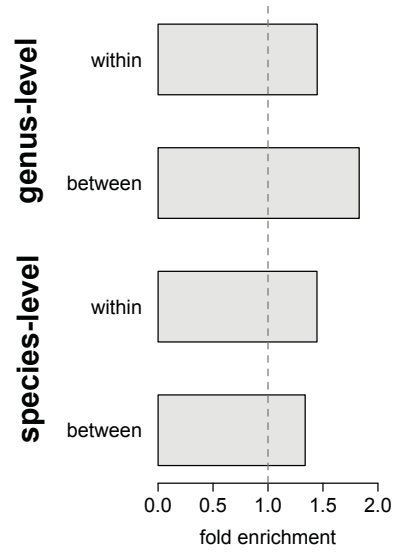
874 **Supplementary file 6.** Table listing the proportional representation of common phyla in
875 each sample. Taxonomic abundances were inferred for all samples using MetaPhlAn
876 2.0.

877 **Supplementary file 7.** Table listing the dietary composition during the microbiome
878 sample collection period.

879 **Supplementary file 8.** Table listing statistical evidence for social structuring for the 327
880 most common bacterial species (prevalence > 50% across 48 samples). Between group
881 analyses were based on the linear mixed modeling approach implemented in the
882 program GEMMA; q-values reflect a false discovery rate of 10%. Within-network
883 analyses were based on Moran's I, as implemented in the function *Moran.I* in the R
884 package *ape*; q-values reflect a false discovery rate of 10%.





A**B****C**

■ phylum
 ■ class
 ■ order
 ■ family
 ■ genus