

Ben KAWAM

Behavioural Ecologist

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EDUCATION

APR 2022 - Present	PhD programme at the German Primate Centre, Germany Behavioural Ecology
SEPT 2019 - NOV 2021	Erasmus Mundus Master Programme in Evolutionary Biology (MEME) University of Groningen, Netherlands - University of Montpellier, France Evolutionary Biology
SEPT 2016 - JUN 2019	Bachelor's degree from the University of Namur, Belgium Biological Sciences <i>Summa cum laude</i>
JAN 2019 - JUN 2019	Exchange semester at Uppsala University, Sweden Ecology

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

FEB 2021 - NOV 2021	Sociality and injuries in baboons <i>University College London</i> Investigate how sociality predicts incidence of injury and wound healing in chacma baboons, using social network analyses. Included three months of fieldwork in Namibia. SUPERVISION: <i>Alecia. J. Carter.</i>
SEPT 2020 - JAN 2021	Effects of predation risk on animal personality <i>University of Groningen</i> Design and implementation of a semi-natural experiment exploring how exposure to predation cues affects personality in three-spined sticklebacks. SUPERVISION: <i>Franz. J. Weissing, Marion Nicolaus & Antonius Groothuis.</i>
MAR 2020 - AUG 2020	Anopheles landscape genetics <i>University of Montpellier</i> Studied the eco-geographical determinants of hybridisation between two malaria vector species of the <i>Anopheles gambiae</i> complex, using SNP data. SUPERVISION: <i>Michael Fontaine & Carlo Costantini.</i>
SEP 2018 - DEC 2018	Epigenetics and bet-hedging <i>University of Namur</i> Examined how epigenetic mechanisms can underlie a bet-hedging evolutionary strategy in animals and bacteria (literature-based project). SUPERVISION: <i>Frédéric Silvestre.</i>

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2021	Best Presentation, 2021 PSGB Winter Meeting.
2021	Erasmus+ Traineeship Grant (5000 EUR), funded by the EU.
2019	Erasmus+ Mobility Grant (2000 EUR), funded by the EU.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 | Biwer, C., **Kawam, B.**, Chapelle, V., & Silvestre, F. (2020). The role of stochasticity in the origin of epigenetic variation in animal populations. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, 60(6), 1544-1557.

CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2021 | **Health costs and benefits of social connectedness for wild baboons.**
Primate Society of Great Britain (PSGB) 2021 Winter meeting.
Talk

RELATED EXPERIENCE

- FEB 2019 - MAR 2019 | **Tropical Ecology field course, Yunnan, China**
 Mini research projects in relation to anthropogenic disturbance, wildlife trade, and vertebrate diversity. Co-organized by *Uppsala University* and *Yunnan University*.
- JUL 2018 - AUG 2018 | **Internship at Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Sierra Leone**
 Involvement in a mammal census program; conceived a plant inventory and identification guide; created an enrichment protocol for chimpanzees.
- JUL 2017 - AUG 2017 | **Internship at Cikananga Wildlife Sanctuary, Indonesia**
 Included behavioural observation of macaques and hornbills; logistic support.
- OCT 2015 - JAN 2016 | **Volunteering at Gibbon Rehabilitation Center, Thailand**
 Educational work related to primate conservation with local communities and internationals; animal care; gibbon tracking.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- FIELDWORK | Behavioural observations (focal, *ad libitum*, scans); ecological and spatial data.
- DATA | R (including data simulation and basic package development), *GitHub*, QGIS.
- STATISTICS | Bayesian and frequentist (multilevel) modelling.
- ILLUSTRATION | Several Adobe programmes (*Illustrator*, *Photoshop*, *Lightroom*), Sony Vegas.
- DOCUMENTS | LaTeX, Microsoft Office, R Markdown.
- WEB | HTML, CSS.

EXTRACURRICULAR PROJECTS

- 2009 - Present | **Photography and video creation**
Digital and film photography. Some of my images (see **Portfolio**) have appeared in public magazines.
Production of videos: script, images, editing. Examples [here](#) and [here](#).
- 2013 - 2015 | **Instructor in the Hashomer Hatzair youth movement, Belgium**
 Responsible for education & communication; group management; organisation of events.