

# Ben KAWAM

*Behavioural Ecologist*

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## EDUCATION

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SEPT 2019 - Present	<b>Erasmus Mundus Master Programme in Evolutionary Biology (MEME)</b> University of Groningen, Netherlands - University of Montpellier, France Evolutionary Biology
SEPT 2016 - JUN 2019	<b>Bachelor's degree from the University of Namur, Belgium</b> Biological Sciences <i>Summa cum laude</i>
JAN 2019 - JUN 2019	<b>Exchange semester at Uppsala University, Sweden</b> Ecology

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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FEB 2021 - NOV 2021	<b>Sociality and injuries in baboons</b> <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	<b>Effects of predation risk on animal personality</b> <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 &amp; Antonius Groothuis.</i>
MAR 2020 - AUG 2020	<b>Anopheles landscape genetics</b> <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 &amp; Carlo Costantini.</i>
SEP 2018 - DEC 2018	<b>Epigenetics and bet-hedging</b> <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

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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

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- 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

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

## RELATED EXPERIENCE

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- 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

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

## EXTRACURRICULAR PROJECTS

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- 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.