

Ben KAWAM

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EDUCATION

MAY 2025 - Present	Resident Fellow Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research, Austria
APR 2022 - Present	Ph.D. in Behavioural Ecology German Primate Center & University of Göttingen, Germany
SEPT 2019 - NOV 2021	M.Sc. Erasmus Mundus Master Programme in Evolutionary Biology University of Groningen, Netherlands; University of Montpellier, France
SEPT 2016 - JUN 2019	B.Sc. in Biology, focus on Organismal Biology and Ecology University of Namur, Belgium
JAN 2019 - JUN 2019	Exchange semester Uppsala University, Sweden

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

APR 2022 - Present	The causal analysis of animal social networks <i>Social Evolution in Primates, DPZ; HBEC, MPI-EVA; KLI</i> Development of a causal framework to study animal social network structure. SUPERVISION: Oliver Schülke, Daniel J. Redhead, Richard McElreath, Julia Ostner.
FEB 2021 - NOV 2021	Consequences of sociality for baboon health <i>Department of Anthropology, University College London</i> Collection, management, and analysis of data from a wild population of chacma baboons. SUPERVISION: Alecia J. Carter.
SEPT 2020 - JAN 2021	Effects of predation risk on stickleback personality <i>GELIFES, University of Groningen</i> Design, implementation and data analysis of a semi-natural behavioural experiment. SUPERVISION: Franz J. Weissing, Marion Nicolaus & Antonius Groothuis.
MAR 2020 - AUG 2020	Anopheles landscape genetics <i>MIVEGEC, University of Montpellier</i> Analysis of genetic and ecological data for two species of <i>Anopheles gambiae</i> . SUPERVISION: Michael Fontaine & Carlo Costantini.
SEP 2018 - DEC 2018	Epigenetics and bet-hedging <i>ILEE, University of Namur</i> Reviewed how epigenetic mechanisms can support a bet-hedging strategy. SUPERVISION: Frédéric Silvestre.

PUBLICATIONS

* indicates joint first authorship.

2025	Kawam, B., McElreath R., Ostner, J., Redhead, D. & Schülke, O., (2025). Inferring the causes of animal social network structure from time-series data. <i>bioRxiv</i> .
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2025	Redhead, D.* , Kawam, B.* , Young, J.-G., Franks, D., Philson, C. S., van Duijn, M., Hart, J., McElreath, M. B., McElreath, R., Power, E. A., Ross, C., Sosa, S., Steglich, C., Weiss, M., & Brent, L. J. N. (2025). Five misunderstandings in animal social network analysis. <i>EcoEvoRxiv</i> .
2024	Kawam, B. , Ostner, J., McElreath R., Schülke, O., & Redhead, D. (2025). A causal framework for animal social network structure. <i>PLOS Computational Biology</i> .
2020	Biwer, C.* , Kawam, B.* , Chapelle, V., & Silvestre, F. (2020). The role of stochasticity in the origin of epigenetic variation in animal populations. <i>Integrative and Comparative Biology</i> , 60(6), 1544-1557.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

2021	MSc distinction: <i>Cum laude</i> . Best Presentation, 2021 PSGB Winter Meeting. Erasmus+ Traineeship Grant (5000 EUR), funded by the EU.
2019	BSc distinction: <i>Summa cum laude</i> . Erasmus+ Mobility Grant (2000 EUR), funded by the EU.

TALKS

2025	The causal analysis of animal social networks. Invited speaker. <i>Department for the Ecology of Animal Societies, MPI-AB, Konstanz, Germany</i>
2025	Kawam, B. , McElreath R., Ostner, J., Redhead, D. & Schülke, O., <i>Inferring the causes of animal social network structure from time-series data</i> . Invited speaker. <i>Department of Sociology, University of Groningen, Netherlands</i> .
2024	Kawam, B. , Ostner, J., McElreath R., Schülke, O., & Redhead, D. <i>A causal framework for animal social network structure</i> . Conference contribution. <i>EHBEA 2024, Montpellier, France</i> . Invited speaker. <i>Department of Sociology, University of Groningen, Netherlands</i> .
2023	Conference contribution. <i>Behaviour 2023, Bielefeld, Germany</i> .
2023	Kawam, B. , Ostner, J., McElreath R., Schülke, O., & Redhead, D. <i>Personality and social relationships in animal social networks</i> . Colloquium. <i>BeCog summer colloquium, Göttingen, Germany</i> . Invited speaker at the <i>MARM group meeting, GELIFES, University of Groningen</i> .
2021	Kawam, B. , Huchard, E., Cowlshaw, G., & Carter, A. J. <i>Health costs and benefits of social connectedness for wild baboons</i> . Conference contribution. <i>PSGB 2021 Winter meeting</i> .

TECHNICAL SKILLS

INFERENCE	Probabilistic and causal modelling.
PROGRAMMING	R, Stan, GitHub, HTML & CSS.
FIELDWORK	Sampling of behavioural, ecological, and spatial data; basic field management.
ILLUSTRATION	Adobe Illustrator, TikZ.

WRITING

LaTeX, Quarto/R Markdown, Microsoft Office.

REVIEWER EXPERIENCE

Scientific Journals

Biological Reviews

Methods in Ecology and Evolution

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

	<i>Introduction to Causal Inference and Directed Acyclic Graphs</i> (30-120 min talk)
2025	Lecturer for <i>Linear models and their application</i> , designed for graduate students & faculty.
2024	Workshop given to PhD students in Ecology and Psychology. Lecturer for <i>Linear models and their application</i> , designed for graduate students & faculty.
2023	Workshop given to PhD students in Ecology and Psychology.
2022	<i>Getting Started with GitHub</i> (30 min talk) Workshop given to PhD students in Ecology and Psychology. Supervision of a M.Sc. student, Lena Lindner, for a 10 weeks project.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

MAR 2022 - Present	Web Designer at Evolutionary Biology Crash Course Co-responsible for Web Design, Graphic Design and Outreach.
2019 - Present	Scientific Illustrator Creation of scientific illustrations and logos. Examples here .
JUL 2018 - AUG 2018	Intern at Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Sierra Leone Behavioural observations; animal care; logistic support; outreach.
JUL 2017 - AUG 2017	Intern at Cikananga Wildlife Sanctuary, Indonesia Behavioural observations; animal care; logistic support; outreach.
OCT 2015 - JAN 2016	Volunteer at Gibbon Rehabilitation Center, Thailand Outreach; animal care; gibbon tracking.

REFERENCES

Dr. Daniel J. Redhead

Assistant Professor in Sociology

Department of Sociology/ICS, University of Groningen

Grote Rozenstraat 31, 9712 TG Groningen, The Netherlands

Relationship to applicant: Co-supervisor of PhD thesis

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Prof. Dr. Richard McElreath

Director

Department of Human Behaviour, Ecology & Culture, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

Deutscher Platz 6, 04103 Leipzig, Germany

Relationship to applicant: Co-supervisor of PhD thesis

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Dr. Oliver Schülke

Senior Scientist

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Relationship to applicant: Co-supervisor of PhD thesis

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