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RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research interest lies at the intersection of functional ecology and palaeobiology: understanding the ecologic niche of extinct animals using the interplay of morphology and function. I use **phylogenetic comparative methods**, **3D digital imaging**, and morphological data (**3D geometric morphometrics** and **linear morphometrics**) to investigate topics such as body size, feeding and locomotor ecology, and convergent evolution within an evolutionary framework.

EDUCATION

2016—2020. PhD

The evolutionary context and functional ecology of the thylacine (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*)

Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology

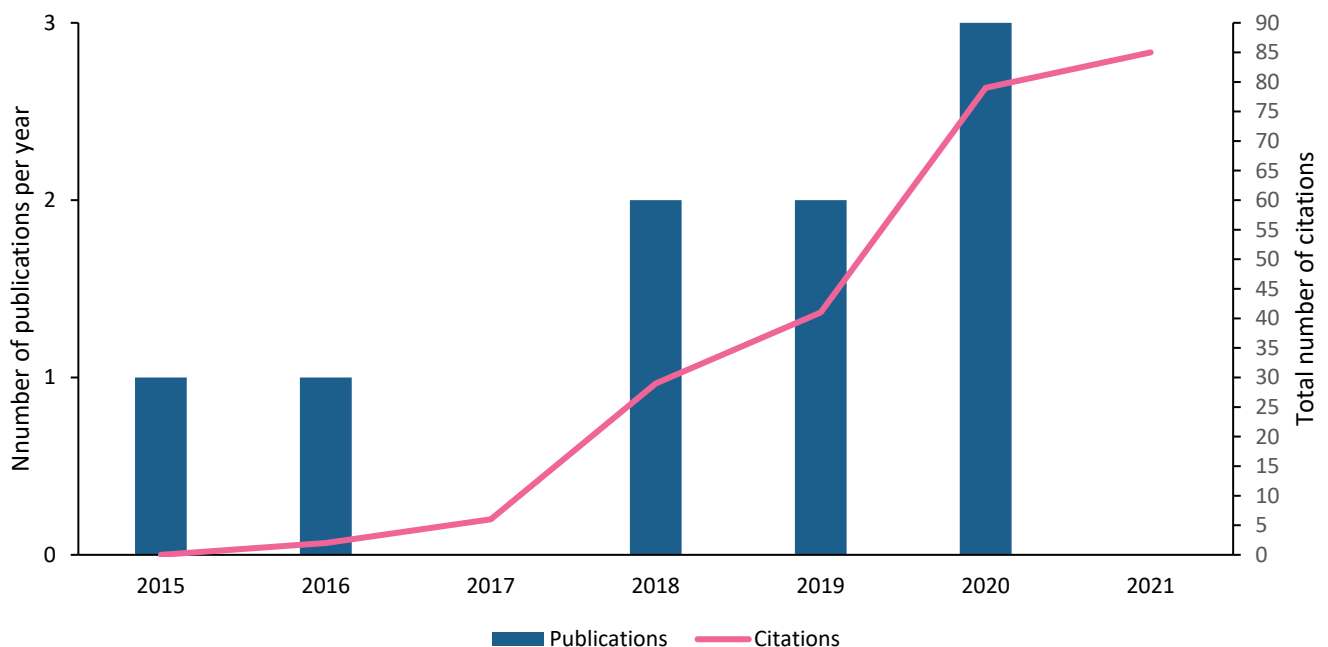
Monash University, Australia

2005—2011. Bachelor of Science in Biology; Emphasis in Animal Biology (Zoology)

Department of Biology

Grand Valley State University, USA

PUBLICATIONS



h-index = **5**, i10-index = **4**, **85** total citations (February 2021)

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2020

1. Rule, J.P., Adams, J.W., **Rovinsky, D.S.**, Hocking, D.P., Evans, A.R., Fitzgerald, E.M.G. A new large-bodied Pliocene seal with unusual cutting teeth. *Royal Society Open Science* 287: 20201537. DOI: [10.1098/rsos.201591](https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.201591). IF: 2.646; 28/71 (Q2) in Multidisciplinary Sciences; Altmetric: 47
2. **Rovinsky, D.S.**, Evans, A.R., Martin, D.G., Adams, J.W. Did the thylacine violate the costs of carnivory? Body mass and sexual dimorphism of an iconic Australian marsupial. *Proceedings of the Royal Society: B* 287: 20201537. DOI: [10.1098/rspb.2020.1537](https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2020.1537). IF: 4.637; 11/93 (Q1) in Biology; Altmetric: 405
3. Herries, A.I.R., Martin, J.M., Leece, A.B., Adams, J.W., Boschian, G., Joannes-Boyau, R., Edwards, T.R., Mallett, T., Massey, J., Murszewski, A., Neubauer, S., Pickering, R., Strait, D.S., Armstrong, B.J., Baker, S., Caruana, M.V., Denham, T., Hellstrom, J., Moggi-Cecchi, J., Mokobane S., Penzo-Kajewski, P., **Rovinsky, D.S.**, Schwartz, G.T., Stammers, R.C., Wilson, C., Woodhead, J., Menter, C. Contemporaneity of *Australopithecus*, *Paranthropus*, and early *Homo erectus* in South Africa. *Science* 368(eaaw7293):1-19. DOI: [10.1126/science.aaw7293](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aaw7293) IF: 41.845; 2/71 (Q1) in Multidisciplinary Sciences; Altmetric: 2506

2019

4. **Rovinsky, D.S.**, Evans, A.R., Adams, J.W. The pre-Pleistocene fossil thylacinids (Dasyuromorphia: Thylacinidae) and the evolutionary context of the modern thylacine. *PeerJ* 7:e7457. DOI: [10.7717/peerj.7457](https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.7457) IF: 2.379; 32/71 (Q2) in Multidisciplinary Sciences; Altmetric: 81
5. Herries, A.I.R., Adams, J.W., Joannes-Boyau, R., Armstrong, B., Baker, S., Blackwood, A.F., Boshian, G., Caruana, M.V., Penzo-Kajewski, P., Murszewski, A., **Rovinsky, D.S.** Integrating palaeocaves into palaeolandscapes: An analysis of cave levels and karstification history across the Gauteng Malmani dolomite, South Africa. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 220:310-334. DOI: [10.1016/j.quascirev.2017.02.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2017.02.007) IF: 3.803; 30/200 (Q1) in Geosciences, Multidisciplinary; Altmetric: 2

2018

6. Adams, J.W., **Rovinsky, D.S.** Taphonomic interpretations of the Haasgat HGD assemblage: A case study in the impact of sampling and preparation methods on reconstructing South African karstic assemblage formation. *Quaternary International* 496:4-18. DOI: [10.1016/j.quaint.2018.01.036](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2018.01.036) IF: 2.003; 114/200 (Q3) in Geosciences, Multidisciplinary; Altmetric: 6
7. Herries, A.I.R., Murszewski, A., Pickering, R., Mallett, T., Joannes-Boyau, R., Armstrong, B., Adams, J.W., Baker, S., Blackwood, A.F., Penzo-Kajewski, P., Kappen, P., Leece, A.B., Martin, J., **Rovinsky, D.S.**, Boschian, G. Geoarchaeological and 3D visualisation approaches for contextualising *in-situ* fossil bearing palaeokarst in South Africa: A case study from the ~2.61 Ma Drimolen Makondo. *Quaternary International* 483:90-110. DOI: [10.1016/j.quaint.2018.01.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2018.01.001) IF: 2.003; 114/200 (Q3) in Geosciences, Multidisciplinary; Altmetric: 7

2016

8. Adams, J.W.*, **Rovinsky, D.S.***, Herries, A.I.R., and Menter, C.G. Macromammalian faunas, biochronology, and palaeochronology of the early Pleistocene Main Quarry hominin-bearing deposits of the Drimolen Palaeocave System, South Africa. *PeerJ* 4:e1941. DOI: [10.7717/peerj.1941](https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.1941) IF: 2.379; 32/71 (Q2) in Multidisciplinary Sciences; Altmetric: 23
*co-1st author

2015

9. **Rovinsky, D.S.**, Herries, A.I.R., Menter, C.G., and Adams, J.W. 2015. First description of in situ primate and faunal remains from the Plio-Pleistocene Drimolen Makondo palaeocave infill, Gauteng, South Africa. *Palaeontologia Electronica* 18.2.34A: 1-21. DOI: [10.26879/533](https://doi.org/10.26879/533) IF: 1.616; 25/55 (Q2) in Paleontology; Altmetric: n/a

PAPERS IN REVIEW/REVISION

1. **Rovinsky, D.S.**, Evans, A.R., Adams, J.W. Convergence between the thylacine and small prey-focused canids. *BMC Evolutionary Biology*.
In revision

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

ACADEMIC

2020

BMS2011 Structure of the human body: An evolutionary and functional perspective
Demonstrator, Semester 1
Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology
Monash University, Clayton Australia

2018

BMS2011 Structure of the human body: An evolutionary and functional perspective
Demonstrator, Semester 1
Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology
Monash University, Clayton Australia

2015

Substitute Teacher (Primary—Secondary education)
Science and mathematics focus in secondary education positions
Lansing, USA

2012—2015

General College Biology I
Laboratory Instructor
Department of Biology
Grand Valley State University, Allendale USA

STUDENT SUPERVISION AND MENTORING

2016

Honours: Alexander D. McDonald (*mentor*)
Digitally reconstructing the forelimb of the extinct Pig-footed bandicoot, Chaeropus ecaudatus, using CT and MRI imaging
Monash University, Clayton Australia

Honours: James P. Rule (*mentor*)
Sensory adaptations of extant carnivorous marsupials to nocturnality: Establishing patterns and anatomical convergence with Orders Primates and Carnivora
Monash University, Clayton Australia

COMPUTER SKILLS

Coding and Statistics: R, PAST

Phylogenetics: MrBayes, TNT, Mesquite, R{ape}, R{phytools}, R{TreeSearch}, R{strap}, R{paleotree}

Morphometrics: R{geomorph}, MorphoJ, Morphologika, Landmark Editor, Stratovan Checkpoint, dHAL Viewbox4

3D Data Suites: Artec Studio, Avizo, Geomagic, MeshLab

Graphics: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator

Productivity Suites: Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Powerpoint

AWARDS & GRANTS

2020

PhD Excellence in Publication Award \$500
Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology,
Monash University

Best Poster Award \$100
Australasian Evolution Society Conference 2020,

2019

PhD Excellence in Publication Award \$500
Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology,
Monash University

2016

Monash University - Museums Victoria PhD Research Scholarship \$17,500
Robert Blackwood Partnership

OUTREACH & SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Rovinsky, D.S., Evans, A.R., and Adams, J.W. 2020. "The Tasmanian tiger was hunted to extinction as a 'large predator' – but it was only half as heavy as we thought" *The Conversation*
>47,000 reads; 54 comments; 5th-most read Monash University article of August 2020
<https://theconversation.com/the-tasmanian-tiger-was-hunted-to-extinction-as-a-large-predator-but-it-was-only-half-as-heavy-as-we-thought-144599>

PUBLIC OUTREACH: FACE TO FACE

Melbourne Museum National Science Week "Science on Show"
19 August 2018

PUBLIC OUTREACH: ONLINE MEDIA

Interview

CNN Space + Science "Tasmanian tigers were small but not fierce predators. Then they went extinct."
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/08/18/world/tasmanian-tiger-thylacine-study-scn/index.html>

ABC News "Tasmanian tigers 'much smaller' than previously thought, US PhD student says"
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-19/new-thinking-on-thylacine-size-from-us-phd-student/12575016>

Channel 7 Tasmania "Tiny tiger"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWhinC_6cqw

Hobart Mercury "The not so scary truth about Tasmanian tigers"
<https://www.themercury.com.au/news/tasmania/hyperlocal/tasmanian-tiger-was-not-so-big-and-scary/news-story/931e011a9d97254b4869e3e456d1d1ad>

Artec3D.com "Using Artec 3D scanners to discover the true size of the now-extinct thylacine"
https://www.artec3d.com/news/thylacine-body-mass-quest?fbclid=IwAR38WjLCrFk0Yw7Fd77-3FZz3Vn-Gg2J2hvUR3LTqq1clY1Yz_Tlspmp7Pg

Invited commentary

ABC Science News "Huge dinosaurs evolved different cooling strategies to prevent their brains overheating"
17 October 2019
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2019-10-17/huge-dinosaurs-cooling-strategies/11604992>

PUBLIC OUTREACH: RADIO

Interview: "Tasmanian tiger has shrunk overnight!" 882 AM 6PR
19 August 2020
<https://www.6pr.com.au/tasmanian-tiger-has-shrunk-overnight/>

Interview: Your Afternoon with Helen Shields
<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/hobart/programs/your-afternoon/your-afternoon/12557052>

Interview: *Einstein A Go Go* "How to survive extinction" 102.7 FM 3RRR
22 September 2019
<https://www.rrr.org.au/explore/podcasts/einstein-a-go-go/episodes/3763-einstein-a-go-go-22-september-2019>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. **Rovinsky, D.S.**, Evans, A.R., Martin, D.G., and Adams, J.W. 2020. Trusting tall tiger tales: How big was the thylacine? Australian Archaeological Association Conference (held online). (*talk*)
<https://youtu.be/JGoZYKV9pLc>
2. **Rovinsky, D.S.**, Evans, A.R., and Adams, J.W. 2020. Convergent evolution between the thylacine and mesopredator canids. Australasian Evolution Society Conference, Sydney, Australia (held online). (*poster*)
3. **Rovinsky, D.S.**, Evans, A.R., Martin, D.G., and Adams, J.W. 2020. Did the thylacine violate the costs of carnivory? Australian Mammal Society Conference, Lismore, Australia (held online). (*talk*)
<https://youtu.be/7Xg9PWCDaiO>
4. **Rovinsky, D.S.**, Adams, J.W., Evans, A.R., Pollock, T.I. 2019. Specialisation of canine shape and sharpness in potentially sympatric species of *Dinofelis* (Carnivora, Machairodontinae). Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Conference, Brisbane, Australia. 79, p.182. (*poster*)
5. **Rovinsky, D.S.**, Evans, A.R., and Adams, J.W. 2017. Placing the thylacine (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*) in carnivorous morphospace using 3D geometric morphometrics. Conference of Australasian Vertebrate Evolution, Palaeontology and Systematics, Queenstown, New Zealand. (*talk*)

INVITED TALKS

1. Morphology Working Group: “So you’ve decided to study shape & size”, University of Michigan, MI USA

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

EXTERNAL REVIEWER

Reviewer for *Palaeontologia Electronica*

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 2020—present | Member of the Australian Mammal Society |
| 2019—present | Member of the Society of Vertebrate Palaeontology |

FIELDWORK

2021

- Heritage Consultant, Taungurung Land and Waters Council, VIC
Proj.Mgmt: R.C. Stammers (NGH Pty Ltd, Australia)
 - transect surveys, artefact recovery and identification

2016

- Excavations and macromammalian faunal analyst on the early Pleistocene Haasgat palaeocave deposit, Gauteng, South Africa
P.I.: J.W. Adams (Monash University, Australia)
 - excavation, fossil fauna identification and analysis

2015

- Excavations and macromammalian faunal analyst on the early Pleistocene Drimolen Main Quarry, Gauteng, South Africa
P.I.: J.W. Adams (Monash University, Australia), A.I.R. Herries (LaTrobe University, Australia), and C.G. Menter (University of Johannesburg, South Africa)
 - excavation, fossil fauna identification and analysis

2014

- Excavations and macromammalian faunal analyst on the latest Pliocene Drimolen Makondo, Gauteng, South Africa
P.I.: J.W. Adams (Monash University, Australia), A.I.R. Herries (LaTrobe University, Australia), and C.G. Menter (University of Johannesburg, South Africa)
 - excavation, fossil fauna identification and analysis

2012

- Reproductive monitoring of fledgling tree swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) relating adult condition and reproductive performance with their nestlings, Allendale, USA
P.I.: M.P. Lombardo (Grand Valley State University, USA)
 - banding and tagging, blood and tissue sample collection, in vivo linear and mass metrics

2006

- Excavations of the McNeal Mound (Hopewellian Middle Woodland Culture) of the Muskegon River Flats, Muskegon State Game Area, USA
P.I.: J.G. Brashler (Grand Valley State University, USA)
 - site location, excavation, transect surveys, test pits, artefact recovery and identification

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS ACCESS

American Museum of Natural History
New York, USA
Australian Museum
Sydney, Australia
Ditsong Museum of Natural History
Pretoria, South Africa
Leeds Museum
Leeds, United Kingdom
Macleay Museum
Sydney, Australia
Michigan State University Museum
Lansing, USA
Museum of Natural History
Berlin, Germany
Museum of Natural Sciences of
Belgium
Brussels, Belgium
Museums Victoria
Melbourne, Australia
National Museum Wales
Cardiff, United Kingdom

Natural History Museum, London
London, United Kingdom
Queen Victoria Museum and Art
Gallery
Launceston, Australia
Smithsonian Museum of Natural
History
Washington D.C, USA
South Australian Museum
Adelaide, Australia
State Museum of Natural History
Stuttgart, Germany
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
Hobart, Australia
University Museum of Zoology
Cambridge, United Kingdom
Western Australia Museum
Perth, Australia
York Museum
York, United Kingdom