

Pedro Fontanarrosa

Curriculum Vitae

+44 (756) 459 4770
✉ pfontanarrosa@gmail.com
🌐 fontanapink.github.io
🔗 fontanapink
ID 0000-0002-0535-2684



Education

- 2023–Present **Postdoctoral Researcher**, *University College London*, London, UK
- 2022–2023 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, *University of Boulder*, Colorado, USA
- 2019–2022 **Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering, Synthetic Biology Track**, *University of Utah*, Utah, USA, *3.8 of 4.0*
- 2017–2019 **Master in Bioengineering, Synthetic Biology Track**, *University of Utah*, Utah, USA, *GPA: 3.67 of 4.0*
Thesis option.
- 2007–2014 **Licentiate in Biological Sciences, orientation Genetics, Evolution and Ecology**, *University of Buenos Aires*, Argentina, *GPA: 8.39 of 10.00*
7-year professional degree program with thesis.
- Ph.D. Dissertation
- Title *Investigating Genetic Circuit Failures*
- Supervisors Professors Chris Myers, Tara Deans, Orly Alter, Yuval Dorfan, Tamara Bidone
- Description This dissertation analyzes and develops methods to understand and avoid genetic circuit failures to help in the re-design process of synthetic biology.
- Masters Thesis
- Title *Automated Generation of Dynamic Models for Genetic Regulatory Networks*
- Supervisors Professors Chris Myers, Tara Deans and Orly Alter
- Description This thesis work developed an automated model generator which produces dynamic models of genetic regulatory networks and can be used to determine circuit failures.
- Title *Sources of life history trait and morphology variability associated with resistance to alkaloids in a cactophilic gender of Drosophila*
- Supervisors Professors Ignacio M. Soto, María Isabel Remis, Marcela Karina Castelo, and Ana Laura Carbajal de Fuente
- Description This thesis explores the idea that speciation in cactophilic *Drosophila* may be linked to alkaloid presence of different cacti.

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles

Preprints

Peer-reviewed Abstracts, Short Papers, and Conference Proceedings

Technical Reports

Honors & Awards

2017–2019 **Fulbright and Argentine Presidential Fellowship in Science & Technology**, *Funded by the Argentine President's Cabinet and the U.S. Embassy of Buenos Aires. Administered by the Argentine Fulbright Commission with support from LASPAU*
Pursue a master's degree in the United States starting Fall 2017.

2015 **Research and Communication Excellency Award**, *Ministry of Science and Technology, Argentinean government, Argentina*
Distinction awarded for excellency in research and communication of research work done under the "Beca Estímulo" scholarship.

2011–2014 **Beca Estímulo (Encouragement Scholarship)**, *Bestower: University of Buenos Aires*
Research and Development tasks in the field of genetics and ecology.

Experience

Peer Reviews for Academic Journals

2023 **Bioinformatics**, *ISSN : 1367-4811*, SOURCE-WORK-ID: 67429a6f-2dc6-44d7-8bee-2e2ecda769f2

2023 **PLOS Computational Biology**, *ISSN : 1553-7358*, SOURCE-WORK-ID: 67429a6f-2dc6-44d7-8bee-2e2ecda769f2

2021 **PLOS Computational Biology**, *ISSN : 1553-7358*, SOURCE-WORK-ID: c2f04765-d444-4600-b920-f9221ce4186c

Research Projects

2018–Present **Synergistic Discovery and Design (SD2)**, *The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)*
Genetic circuit design for extreme environments enabled by models extracted from petabyte+ perturbation analyses.

Project FA8750-17-C-0229

2013–2014 **International Barcoding of Life, (IBOL) Argentina Fund**
Barcoding of the diversity of arthropod communities associated to cacti decomposition. This demanded the negotiation of permits with the National Park Administration of the Argentinean government, the coordination of an expedition team to spend weeks in the San Juan desert, and the logistics for the collection of conservation of specimens for the barcoding project.

Director Ignacio M. Soto

- 2012–2013 **Alkaloid resistance in the genus *Drosophila*: Effects of artificial selection on ecological specialization and evolution of anti-herbivore strategies**, *National Agency for Scientific and Technological Promotion, Argentina*
- Project PICT-2010-2603
- 2011–2014 **Alkaloid resistance for insects with saprotrophic nutrition: Genetic bases and effects of artificial selection**, *National Secretariat of Science and Technology and the University of Buenos Aires conjoint program (UBACyT)*
- Project 20020100300061
- Research Experience
- 2023–Present **Research Assistantship**, *Computational Systems and Synthetic biology Lab, College University London*, London, UK, P.I.: Prof. Chris Barnes
- Genetic design automation (GDA) software development, and genetic regulatory network (GRN) design, modeling, and simulation. Specifically:
- GDA tool development: iBioSim
 - Development of novel modeling automation techniques
 - GRN modeling and simulation
 - Design of genetic circuits with specific applications
 - Development and maintenance of genetic parts repositories
- 2017–2023 **Research Assistantship**, *Genetic Logic Lab, University of Boulder, Colorado, USA*, P.I.: Prof. Chris Myers
- Genetic design automation (GDA) software development, and genetic regulatory network (GRN) design, modeling, and simulation. Specifically:
- GDA tool development: iBioSim
 - Development of novel modeling automation techniques
 - GRN modeling and simulation
 - Design of genetic circuits with specific applications
 - Development and maintenance of genetic parts repositories
- 2010–2014 **Research Assistantship**, *Evolutionary Studies Laboratory, University of Buenos Aires*, Buenos Aires, Argentina, P.I.: Prof. Esteban Hasson
- In Argentina, research assistantships are earned through a very competitive contest hosted by the Argentinean government.
- Responsibilities:
- Maintained isogenetic lines of *Drosophila* flies
 - Collection of *Drosophila* specimens in National Parks of the province of San Juan, Argentina
 - Coordinated expedition team to recollect cacti tissues
 - Petition of special permits for recollection of protected species' specimens
 - Managed statistical programs and data bases
 - Trained and supervised new lab members
 - Authored and collaborated in the writing of different scientific papers research programs and technical reports for the Argentinean government
- Teaching Experience
- Fall 2020 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, *University of Utah*, Utah, USA
- Graduate teaching assistant for Fundamentals of Biomedical Engineering II (BME II). Instructors: Rob MacLeod & Doug Christensen. In charge of discussion groups, homework & exam corrections (4 CR).

- 2015–2017 **IB & IGCSE Highschool Chemistry Teacher (in English)**, *Northlands School*, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Taught freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior students (approx. 250). Full time (40 hs. per week). Coordinated and planned Extended Essays in chemical research.
- 2014–2015 **IB & IGCSE Primary and Highschool Science and Mathematics Teacher (in English)**, *Tarbut School*, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Taught freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior students (approx. 250). Full time (40 hs. per week). Orchestrated the XXIII and XXIV Mathematical Ingenious Olympiads.
- Other
- 2019–2022 **Synthetic Biology Open Language (SBOL) Editor**, *COMBINE Standards*
SBOL Editors' primary responsibility is ensuring the effective curation of documents for the community. SBOL Editors are elected by a community vote and hold weekly meetings to coordinate their execution of these responsibilities.
Detailed responsibilities:
- Equitably representing the community in voting, documents, and guidance of discussion
 - Curation and dissemination of the SBOL standards and related documents (including writing, editing, and coordinating changes)
 - Maintaining an open and structured process by which members of the SBOL Development Group can modify and improve SBOL standards (including timely implementation of tracking, processing, responding to, and organizing voting on change proposals)
 - Ensuring effective development and maintenance of official SBOL software libraries and associated documentation and tutorials
 - Coordinating scholarly publications and ensuring proper attribution of contributions
 - Running elections and other community votes
 - Organization (or delegation) of SBOL Workshops and other events
 - Maintaining community infrastructure, including: the SBOL web site, source code repositories, mailing lists

Scientific Conferences

As an expositor

- 2024 **Leeds 2024 Eco-Evolutionary Dynamics (L24EEDs) workshop**, Leeds, UK
TALK: "MIMIC: A Comprehensive Python Package for Simulating, Inferring, and Predicting Microbial Community Interactions and Dynamics".
- 2024 **London Mathematical Biology Conference**, London, UK
POSTER: "MIMIC: A Comprehensive Python Package for Simulating, Inferring, and Predicting Microbial Community Interactions and Dynamics".
- 2024 **Mathematical Models in Ecology and Evolution 2024**, Vienna, Austria
TALK: "MIMIC: A Comprehensive Python Package for Simulating, Inferring, and Predicting Microbial Community Interactions and Dynamics".
- 2023 **IWBDA 2023**, Washington DC, USA
CONFERENCE PAPER: "A Report on SynBio Data Management Practices". Authors: Carolus Vitalis, Sai Samineni, Chris Myers and **Pedro Fontanarrosa**.
- 2023 **IWBDA 2023**, Washington DC, USA
CONFERENCE PAPER: "Software for Synthetic Biology Workflows: How to Improve Your Productivity and Impact". Authors: Chris J. Myers, Lukas Buecherl, Daniel Fang, **Pedro Fontanarrosa**, William Mo, Sai P. Samineni, Gonzalo Vidal, Carolus Vitalis, Guillermo Yanez-Feliu and Timothy J. Rudge
- 2022 **SEED 2022**, Washington DC, USA
WORKSHOP: "Software Tools Workshop for GDA design". Authors: **Fontanarrosa, Pedro**; Bücherl, Lukas; Jet Mante; Sai Samineni; and Myers, Chris J.
- 2022 **Harmony 2022**, Washington DC, USA
CONTRIBUTED TALK: "Robustness and Noise for Genetic Circuit Design Choices". Authors: **Fontanarrosa, Pedro**; and Myers, Chris J.
- 2021 **IWBDA 2021**, Online (virtual)
CONTRIBUTED TALK: "Comparison of Extrinsic and Intrinsic Noise Model Predictions for Genetic Circuit Failures". Authors: **Fontanarrosa, Pedro**; Bücherl, Lukas; and Myers, Chris J.
- 2020 **COMBINE 2020**, Online (virtual)
CONFERENCE PAPER: "Genetic Circuit Hazard Analysis Using STAMINA". Authors: Bücherl, Lukas; Mante, Jeanet and **Fontanarrosa, Pedro**; Zhang, Zhen; Jepsen, Brett; Roberts, Riley and Myers, Chris J.
- 2020 **HARMONY 2020**, EMBL-EBI, Cambridgeshire, UK
Codefest-type meeting, with a focus on development of the standards, interoperability and infrastructure.
- 2019 **IWBDA 2019**, *Cambridge University*, Cambridge, England
CONFERENCE PAPER and CONTRIBUTED TALK: "Analyzing Genetic Circuits for Hazards and Glitches". Authors: **Pedro Fontanarrosa**, Hamid Doosthosseini, Amin Espah Borujeni, Yuval Dorfan, Chris A. Voigt, and Chris Myers.
- 2019 **COMBINE 2019**, *Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies (HITS)*, Heidelberg, Germany
CONTRIBUTED TALK: "Analyzing Genetic Circuits for Hazards and Glitches". Authors: **Pedro Fontanarrosa**, Hamid Doosthosseini, Amin Espah Borujeni, Yuval Dorfan, Chris A. Voigt, and Chris Myers.

- 2018 **COMBINE 2018**, *Boston University*, Boston, MA USA
 POSTER: "Dynamic Model Generation in iBioSim". Authors: **Pedro Fontanarrosa**, Hamid Doosthosseini, Tramy Nguyen, and Chris Myers.
- 2013 **XVI National Congress of Philosophy**, Buenos Aires, Argentina
 ORAL PRESENTATION "Brian Goodwin and the role of genes in the explanation of generative dynamics of some species in relation to the historical development of the notion of natural selection."
- 2012 **VIII Argentine Congress of Entomology**, San Carlos de Bariloche, Rio Negro, Argentina
 POSTER: "How does the presence of mescaline influence the viability and development times of *Drosophila buzzatii* isogenic lines with different chromosomal inversions?". Authors: **Fontanarrosa, Pedro**; Mongiardino, Nicolás; Padró, Julián; Soto, Ignacio.
- 2011 **XVII Argentine Congress of Toxicology**, Tandil, Buenos Aires, Argentina
 POSTER: "Evolutionary eco-toxicology: Lethal and teratogenic effects of natural alkaloids present in the secondary host of cactophilic flies.". Authors: Padró, Julián; Mongiardino, Nicolas; **Fontanarrosa, Pedro**; Carreira, Valeria; Hasson, Esteban; Soto, Ignacio
 As an attendant
- 2021 **COMBINE 2021**, *11-15 October*, online (virtual)
- 2020 **IWBDA 2020**, *20-24 September*, online (virtual)
- 2010 **III Ibero-American Congress of Philosophy of Science and Technology**, CABA, Argentina
- 2009 **I Reunion of Evolutionary Biology of the Southern Cone**, CABA, Argentina

Computer skills

Programming	PYTHON, C++, JAVASCRIPT, R	JAVA,
Writing	L ^A T _E X	Web Development HTML, Hugo
Databases	SQL	

Languages

Spanish	Mothertongue	
English	Proficient	TOEFL ITP: 630 (February 2016)
Portuguese	Intermediate	Conversationally fluent
French	Beginner	Can read & write

Certifications and Trainings

- 2023 **Data Science Bootcamp**, *THE ERDŐS INSTITUTE*, Certificate of Completion with Distinction.
 PhD Career Development programs and Industry Placement services designed in partnership with our PhD alumni mentors and corporate hiring partners.
- 2023 **Machine Learning A-Z™: AI, Python & R + ChatGPT Bonus [2023]**, *Udemy*
 Certificate of Completion

- 2015 **Principles of Computing (Part 2)**, *Rice University, Coursera Massive Open Online Course*, grade: 93.8%
Statement of Accomplishment with Distinction
- 2015 **Principles of Computing (Part 1)**, *Rice University, Coursera Massive Open Online Course*, grade: 95.7%
Statement of Accomplishment with Distinction
- 2014 **An Introduction to Interactive Programming in Python**, *Rice University, Coursera Massive Open Online Course*, grade: 100%
Statement of Accomplishment with Distinction
- 2012 **Experimental Design and Statistic Analysis for Graduate Thesis**, *Department of Ecology, Genetics and Evolution, University of Buenos Aires*, Argentina
- 2011 **"Metabiology: Life as Evolving Software"**, by **Gregory Chaitin**, *School of Computer Science (ECI), University of Buenos Aires*, Argentina
- 2009 **Speech, Debate and Leadership**, *School of Law, University of Buenos Aires*, Argentina

Volunteer Experience

- 2013–2017 **Biohacking BA volunteer work**, Argentina
Artists, scientists, engineers, hackers and any person who is curious and wants to learn, play and build "life" is invited to join our "garage laboratories" inspired in the maker spaces. Volunteer work consisted on organization of talks, workshops, invited guest lectures as well as DIY projects like:
- Recycling of old refrigerators into incubators
 - Manufacture a PCR thermocycler using Arduino
 - Synthesize a "Hello World" with *E. coli* and GFP
 - Develop an open hardware glucose meter
 - Create art using genetic engineering techniques
 - 3D print a micropipette
- 2010–2012 **Organization of yearly "Biology Week"**, *School of Natural & Exact Sciences, University of Buenos Aires*, Argentina
Each year, the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) hosts a "Biology Week" intended to promote science careers for high school students. The organization of this event required, amongst other things, the development of posters with information on the different tracks in the Biological sciences and scientific research, and the design of different installations and stands with interactive science projects so that students can take part of.
- 2006–2010 **Argentine Atheist Association volunteer work**, Argentina
Volunteer work varied from:
- Organization of yearly conference meeting in Mar del Plata, Argentina
 - Translation of documents
 - Divulagation of information
 - Organization of invited talks and other events
 - Finance management

2004–2008 **The Argentine Homosexual Community (CHA) volunteer work** , Argentina

Volunteer work varied from:

- Organization of yearly conference meeting in Mar del Plata, Argentina
- Translation of documents
- Divulagation of information
- Organization of invited talks and other events
- Finance management