



New Project Proposals

These project proposals were **presented at the MacaqueNet Workshop in Kolkata, India, 2025**, most of which are seeking new types of data not yet included in the MacaqueNet database. **Want to collaborate?** To get in touch with the researchers leading these exciting projects, use the contact email provided or get in touch with us @macaquetnet@gmail.com.



Same-sex sociosexual behaviour across macaque species

Professor **Vincent Savolainen** is inviting collaborators to contribute **Same-Sex Behaviour (SSB) data** for a global comparative study. While SSB can be common across primate species, it is unclear what the evolutionary underpinnings and social function of these are. This project will test **how life histories and ecological factors affect same-sex sociosexual behaviour (SSB) across macaque species** using comparative phylogenetic analyses. The project aims for a global collaborative analysis and a joint publication in about three years.

What data are needed?

All-occurrence data on male-male and female-female interactions on the following behaviours:

Mounting · Sexual solicitation · Genital stimulation · Genital inspection · Erection · Masturbation · Copulatory plug · Allo-grooming · Self-grooming · Aggression · Submission

Please also include **scan samples** or other measures of **observation effort**, so SSB prevalence can be estimated accurately.

✉ **Contact:** v.savolainen@imperial.ac.uk

Using Untapped Citizen Science Data to Analyse Human-Macaque Interactions

Brion Ó Conchubhair and **Greg Alberry** are investigating **how animal behaviour influences disease spread and zoonotic risk** using spatial and social network analyses in macaques.

This study will explore the use of online **visitor reviews** as a previously **untapped source of data** on macaque-human aggression. Reviews mentioning macaques and aggression will be collected from ~50 sites, including Ifrane National Park, Apes Den, and the Rock of Gibraltar.

This project offers a **collaborative opportunity with MacaqueNet**, using the MacaqueNet database and community to source behavioural data. The team aims to **compare reports of aggression in visitor reviews with observed aggression data at these sites**, from MacaqueNet and other behavioural studies.

By assessing how well reported aggression reflects observed behaviour, the project aims to test the value of visitor-generated citizen science data for studying human-wildlife conflict and risky macaque behaviours.

What data are needed?

Population/Location name · Observations of Aggressive behaviour

✉ **Contact:** boconchu@tcd.ie or gfalbery@gmail.com

Impact of food provisioning on macaque social networks

Melissa Vanderheyden and **Andreas Berghänel** are inviting collaborators to contribute data to a study examining **how human food provisioning influences macaque behaviour**. As human populations grow, urban areas increasingly encroach on macaques' natural ranges, resulting in more frequent human-macaque interactions.

The project will use data from sites in wild, free-ranging, and captive settings to examine how human presence and feeding style (organised by caretakers versus unorganised by tourists or residents) influences affiliative and aggressive behaviours. These patterns will help reveal the potential impacts of human provisioning on dominance style, stress levels, and social/spatial network structure.

Additional information about the sites, including predation risk and the presence and number of neighbouring groups, will be incorporated to understand how ecological and social factors interact with human provisioning.

What data are needed?

Affiliative behaviours · Aggressive behaviours · Group composition

For each dataset, the following information is also required:

Type of food provisioning (by care-takers or general public) · Presence of predation · Presence of neighbouring groups

✉ **Contact:** macaquetnet@gmail.com

Genotypes & demography across macaques

Professors Anja Widdig and Dyah Perwitasari-Farajallah invite collaborators to contribute **genetic and demographic data** for a global study linking genetic diversity to IUCN status. The project will use detailed demographic data collected from different macaque populations and **correlate genetic diversity to different population sizes** (especially effective population size) over time and space. Collaborators will be offered **co-authorship** on resulting publications.

To make genetic data accessible to all MacaqueNet members, the management team hopes to work with Anja to incorporate the contributed data into a new **genetic data branch** of the **MacaqueNet database**.

What data are needed?

The minimum data required are:

Species · Population/location · Number of groups · GPS · Study period · Total group size (demographics) · Birth/death year or sample date · STR data

Where possible, contributors should also provide species-level data on:

Species · Population/location name · GPS coordinates · Number/name of groups · Study period · Total group size (demographics) · Total group size (genotyped) · Adult males per group/year · Adult females per group/year · Condition (wild, semi-free, captive, human-impacted) · IUCN status

And individual-level data on:

ID/Name (or dummy) · Group · Birth year · Death year · Sex · Sample year/age at collection · Mother ID · Father ID · Loci and genotypes

✉ **Contact:** anja.widdig@eva.mpg.de