CURRENT Ph.D. candidate,

Position Quebec Center for Biodiversity Science, McGill University, Canada.,

Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada.

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CITIZENSHIP Canada

LANGUAGES FRENCH: Native language

ENGLISH: Full professional proficiency JAPANESE: Elementary proficiency

EXPERTISE

- Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning: My thesis focuses on the problem of transfer learning, which could be described as the capacity to automatically transfer knowledge between a source (the knowledge we want to transfer) and a target (the model we want to build). I'm also very interested in autonomous (reinforcement learning) agents.
- Scientific computing: Almost all my undergraduate projects were done on scientific computing applied to biology and I worked four years (2009-2012) as a research professional, focusing on C/C++ simulations and GPU computing with CUDA on the Canada Research Chair on Terrestrial Ecosystems' scientific cluster.
- **Ecology:** I have contributed to theoretical evolutionary ecology (speciation, community ecology) and worked with several biological data-sets.

#### EDUCATION

## Department of Biology, Université du Québec à Montréal, Montréal, Canada.

Ph.D., September 2012 – August 2015 [expected]

- Thesis Proposal: Transfer learning using semantic networks, with applications to biology
- Adviser: Dr. Dominique Gravel
- Co-adviser: Dr. Timothée Poisot
- Area of Study: Artificial Intelligence; Machine learning; Natural Language Processing; Biology.
- Comprehensive exam: Maximum Entropy in Ecology & Evolution.
- Courses: Advanced Distributed Computing (A13).

#### College of Engineering, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, USA.

Graduate Certificate in Bioinformatics, 2012,

• Area of Study: Data Mining & biostatistics.

#### Université du Québec, Québec, Canada.

B.S., 2009,

- Major in Biology,
- Minor in Mathematics & Computer Science.

#### AWARDS

Alexander Graham Bell Graduate Scholarship (2012)

- From: Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
- **Description:** Most competitive Canadian scholarship in science.
- Value: 105 000\$ (equivalent to 105 000 USD or 8 150 000 JPY, 2012 est.)

Windows Azure Research Award (2013)

- From: Microsoft Research
- **Description:** The first group of 32 awards given by Microsoft. Gives a generous access to Microsoft Azure for research purpuse.
- Proposal: Growing Intelligence with Cloud Markov Logic.
- Value: >40 000 USD.

### REFEREED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- [1] **P Desjardins-Proulx**. Global Transfer Learning between Arbitrary Sources using Semantic Networks.

  In prep.
- [2] P Desjardins-Proulx, EP White, JJ Adamson, K Ram, T Poisot, and D Gravel. The case for open preprints in biology. PLoS Biology 11(5): e1001563
- [3] R Vergilino, TA Elliott, P Desjardins-Proulx, TJ Crease and F Dufresne. Evolution of a transposon in *Daphnia* hybrid genomes. *Mobile DNA* 4-7, 2013. DOI: 10.1186/1759-8753-4-7
- [4] D Ai, P Desjardins-Proulx, C Chu, and G Wang. The influence of immigration and dispersal limitation on the repeatability of niche and neutral communities. PLOS ONE 7(9): e46164, 2012. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0046164
- [5] P Desjardins-Proulx and D Gravel. A complex speciation-richness relationship in a simple neutral model. *Ecology and Evolution* 2(8): 1781–1790, 2012. DOI: 10.1002/ece3.292
- [6] P Desjardins-Proulx and D Gravel. How likely is speciation in neutral ecology?
   The American Naturalist 179(1):137-144, 2012.
   DOI: 10.1086/663196

# OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

- [7] **P Desjardins-Proulx**. The case for arXiv and a broader conception of peer-reviews. Invited blog, International Network of Next-Generation Ecologists, 2012.
  - http://www.innge.net/?q=node/330.
- [8] P Desjardins-Proulx, JL Rosindell, T Poisot, and D Gravel. A simple model to study phylogeographies and speciation patterns in space, 2012. arXiv: 1203.1790.
- [9] P Desjardins-Proulx. A foot in the neutral trap. Invited comment for *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, 2012.
- [10] P Desjardins-Proulx. L'origine de la Biodiversité. Le Mouton Noir, Mai-Juin. Cahier Spécial sur la Biodiversité p.2, 2010. Selected and republished by Gaia-Presse, a group sponsored by the Université Laval.

#### Job Experiences

#### Research Professional, Canada Research Chair on Terrestrial Ecosystem

- From 2009 to 2012.
- Supervisor: Dr. Dominique Gravel

• Responsabilities: Programming high-performance simulations in C, C++, and CUDA on a distributed cluster; Design of ecological models to understand biodiversity; Teaching scientific computing to graduate students (C, C++, Python, UNIX tools).

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCES

#### Université du Québec, Québec, Canada.

- 2013. I organized a series of meetings on information theory and inference.
- 2012. CUDA training (intensive one-day course).
- 2012. Scientific computing with C and C++ (grad. students/post-docs).
- 2011. Scientific computing with C and C++ (grad. students/post-docs).

### Referee Service

Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications; Ecology Letters, Journal of Theoretical Biology; Theoretical Ecology; Acta Biotheoretica; Molecular Ecology Ressources; The American Naturalist; Journal of Plant Ecology.

#### Professional Memberships

• Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

2012-...

• Quebec Center for Biodiversity Science

# 2012-...

#### Programming skills

I have some experience with many programming languages, libraries, frameworks. I only list here my current working tools:

- Languages: Haskell, C (C99, CUDA C, OpenCL), F#, C++, Clojure, JavaScript (Node.js).
- Databases: MongoDB, Cassandra, PostgreSQL.
- Operating Systems: Linux (mostly Debian/Ubuntu-based), UNIX (OSX).

• 2010. Reading course on Ancestral Recombination Graphs [3 credits]

• Writing: LATEX  $2_{\varepsilon}$ .

#### Graduate Courses

• 2013. Advanced Distributed Computing [3 credits]

Athabasca

• 2012. Datamining (machine learning) [4 credits]

UIC

• 2011. Biostatistics [4 credits]

UIC UIC

• 2010. Intro. to bioinformatics [4 credits]

UQAR

#### ONLINE COURSES

• 2014. Technology Entrepreneurship

NovoEd/Stanford

Referees

On request.