# Philippe Desjardins-Proulx

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CURRENT Ph.D. candidate,

Position 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 deep 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 rely on graphical models and techniques from natural language processing.
- Scientific computing: Almost all my undergraduate projects were done on scientific computing in biology and I worked 4 years (2009-2012) as a research professional, focusing on C/C++/CUDA simulations on the Canada Research Chair on Terrestrial Ecosystems' scientific cluster.
- **Ecology:** I have contributed to theoretical ecology (speciation, community ecology) and worked on several ecological data-sets.

# EDUCATION

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

Ph.D., September 2012 –

- Thesis Proposal: Achieving deep transfer learning with semantic networks, with applications to species distribution modeling
- Adviser: Dr. Dominique Gravel
- Area of Study: Machine learning; Artificial Intelligence; Natural Language Processing; Probabilistic Graphical Models; Statistical learning; Learning transfer; Ecology.
- 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: Access to the Windows Azure cloud for selected science proposals.
- Proposal: Growing Intelligence with Cloud Markov Logic.
- Value: >40 000 USD.

# REFEREED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- [1] **P Desjardins-Proulx**. Achieving Deep Transfer Learning with Markov Logic and 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 peerreviews. 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.

#### Teaching Université du Québec, Québec, Canada. EXPERIENCES • 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 Physica A; Journal of Theoretical Biology; Theoretical Ecology; Acta Biotheoretica; SERVICE Molecular Ecology Ressources; Journal of Plant Ecology. 2012-... Professional • Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers 2012-... • Quebec Center for Biodiversity Science Memberships I have some experience with many programming languages, libraries, frameworks. I list Programming here my current primary working tools: SKILLS • Languages: C#, F#, C, C++, Haskell. • Databases: MySQL, PostgreSQL, Neo4J. • Operating Systems: Linux, Windows. Graduate • 2013. Advanced Distributed Computing [3 credits] Athabasca Courses • 2012. Datamining (machine learning) [4 credits] UIC • 2011. Biostatistics [4 credits] UIC

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

UIC

**UQAR** 

• 2010. Intro. to bioinformatics [4 credits]

Referees On request.