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Paul Templier, PhD

My Profile

- Postdoc Researcher in **Adaptive Robotics** in Antoine Cully's team at Imperial College London.
- PhD in **Evolutionary Policy Search**, with an expertise in **Quality-Diversity** and **RL**.
- Extensive technical depth across **evolutionary computation paradigms** through implementation, publication and reviewing. Currently working on multi-agent and **human-AI interaction** settings.
- Multiple first-authored publications on population-based methods at international conferences, and a **Best Paper Award** at GECCO 24. Gave the GECCO 2025 tutorial on **Evolutionary RL**.
- Fluent in **Jax** and **Python**, core developer of open-source Jax libraries. **13 years** of experience in diverse coding **paradigms** and languages, and used to scaling to multi-node experiments on HPC.

Work Experience

2024-Present **Postdoctoral Researcher in Robotics** , *Imperial College London, UK*
Department of Computing. Funded by the **DARPA** Learning Introspective Control program.

2021-2024 **PhD in Machine Learning** , *ISAE-SUPAERO, Toulouse, France*
Advised by Emmanuel Rachelson, Dennis Wilson. 4-months visit to Antoine Cully's lab (2023)

2020 **Research Intern in Neuroevolution** , *ISAE-SUPAERO, Toulouse, France*

2019 **Cybersecurity Consultant** , *Wavestone, Paris, France*

Education

2021-2024 **PhD in Evolutionary Machine Learning** , *ISAE-SUPAERO, Toulouse, France*

2019-2020 **MSc in Operations Research** , *ISAE-SUPAERO, Toulouse, France*

2016-2020 **MSc in Engineering** , *ISAE-SUPAERO, Toulouse, France*
ISAE-SUPAERO is the foremost aerospace engineering school in France. Major in ML.

Core expertise

Evolution **Population-based policy search**
Deep understanding of Evolutionary Computation, with a multi-year focus on Quality-Diversity methods. Interested in open-ended systems where agents discover diverse, high-performing skills on their own, individually or in multi-agent settings.

Control **Reinforcement Learning and Robotics**
Experienced with RL, including its combinations with population-based and QD methods. Postdoc in Adaptive and Intelligent Robotics on a real system for robust operations.

Adaptation **Cross-domain collaboration**
Multiple projects collaborating with biologists and roboticists to bridge the gap between evolutionary methods and applied science. Inspired by cross-domain ideas and applications.

Awards

2025 **GECCO Outstanding Reviewer Award**

2024 **GECCO Best Paper Award**

2020 **GECCO Competition: Evolving a Dota 2 bot (First place)**

Research Life and Collaboration

Tutorial **GECCO 2025: Evolutionary Reinforcement Learning Tutorial**
With Antoine Cully, Bryan Lim, and Manon Flageat. Attendance: 100 people.

Review **Reviewer for GECCO (2023-2024-2025), IEEE TEVC (2024), ALIFE (2025).**

ICARL **Imperial College Autonomous Reasoning & Learning seminars organization**

Supervision **MSc students supervision**
Supervised Tarek Kunze, leading to a CEC 2024 paper on meta-evolution of ANN encoding.
Supervised Will Foster's MSc project at ICL on QD+LLM for image generation (2025).

Teaching

2021-22-24 **Evolutionary Computation**, *ISAE-SUPAERO*, 40h total

2021-22-23 **Python - Algorithm and Computing**, *ISAE-SUPAERO*, 100h total

2022-23 **Bash & Python**, *ISAE-SUPAERO*, 20h

Languages

French Native

English Proficient - C2 (2017 Cambridge C2 Proficiency, 2024 UKVI C2); living in the UK.

Spanish Independant - B2

Selected Publications

PhD (2024) **Leveraging Structures in Evolutionary Neural Policy Search**

GECCO 2024 **Quality with Just Enough Diversity in Evolutionary Policy Search (Best Paper Award)**
Paul Templier, Luca Grillotti, Emmanuel Rachelson, Dennis G. Wilson, Antoine Cully

ALIFE 2025 **Time to Play: Simulating Early-Life Animal Dynamics Enhances Robotics Locomotion Discovery**
Paul Templier, Hannah Janmohamed, David Labonte, Antoine Cully

IEEE CEC 2024 **Searching Search Spaces: Meta-evolving a Geometric Encoding for ANNs**
Tarek Kunze, Paul Templier, Dennis G. Wilson

GECCO 2021 **A Geometric Encoding for Neural Network Evolution**
Paul Templier, Emmanuel Rachelson, Dennis G. Wilson

Selected Open Source Contributions

QDax Core contributor of QDax, the accelerated Quality-Diversity library for JAX.

Kheperax Core contributor of Kheperax, a high-performance JAX-powered simulator for robotic navigation in 2D mazes.

BERL Benchmarking Evolutionary Reinforcement Learning: a python framework to test and evaluate Evolution Strategies for RL tasks, with MPI parallelism.

Neuro-Evo A Julia implementation of NEAT-based neuroevolution algorithms (NEAT, CPPN, HyperNEAT)