

# Brian C. O'Meara

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Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

## Research

I address questions in evolutionary biology through development, implementation, and application of new phylogenetic methods. These include approaches for examining the process of continuous trait evolution (rate, optimal values, and other factors), species delimitation, phylogeography, diversification analyses, biogeography, and more. I also collaborate extensively with empiricists, including some of my own students.

## Summary

<b>Publications</b>	31 journal articles, including <i>Science</i> , <i>Nature</i> , <i>Ann. Rev Ecology, Evolution &amp; Systematics</i> , <i>Systematic Biology</i> , <i>Evolution</i> , etc.
<b>Teaching</b>	Approximately 4 courses per year on average, ranging from large introductory biology courses to small graduate seminars
<b>Mentoring</b>	4 PhD students, 12 postdocs, and served on 26 graduate student committees
<b>Service/Outreach</b>	Darwin Day TN advisor, co-organizer of women in science symposium, workshops, and other activities, co-organizer for national meetings, curator of R phylogenetics task view, instructor at workshops in Sweden, Switzerland, Brazil, and various US locations (Ohio, TN, NC)
<b>Funding</b>	\$2.51M in external support, including 5 NSF grants (including a CAREER grant) plus funding from iPlant and Encyclopedia of Life
<b>Altmetrics</b>	Number of citations = 1970; h-index = 17; 43 public github repos; Erdos number = 4; papers have been saved 3238 times in reference manager Mendeley, have been tweeted about 678 times, and have been mentioned 30 times in the news

## Education

University of California Davis: PhD (2008) in Population Biology

Harvard University: Bachelor (magna cum laude), with highest honors in Biology (2001)

## Employment

2016-Present: Associate Head, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

2016-Present: Associate Director, Dept. of National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS), University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

2015-Present: Associate Professor, Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

2009-2015: Assistant Professor, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

2007-2009: Postdoc, National Evolutionary Synthesis Center, Durham, NC

## Publications: Papers

According to Google Scholar, my work has been cited 1970 times, and my h-index is 17. (Google Scholar tends to overestimate citations, however).

According to NSF-funded [ImpactStory.org](https://www.impactstory.org), a source of altmetrics data (a measure of impact beyond citations), my work has various impacts:

- My top publication has been saved and shared 513 times. Only 10% of researchers get this much attention on a publication.
- My research has been saved and shared in 58 countries. That's high: only 4% of researchers get that much international attention.
- My research software keeps on giving. My software impact is in the top 27 percent of all research software creators on Depsy.

Schwery, O. and B. C. **O'Meara** (2016). “MonoPhy : a simple R package to find and visualize monophyly issues”. In: *PeerJ Computer Science* 2, p. e56.

**O'Meara**, B. C, S. D. Smith, W. S. Armbruster, L. D. Harder, C. R. Hardy, L. C. Hileman, L. Hufford, A. Litt, S. Magallon, S. A. Smith, P. F. Stevens, C. B. Fenster and P. K. Diggle (2016). “Non-equilibrium dynamics and floral trait interactions shape extant angiosperm diversity”. In: *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B: Biological Sciences* 283.1830.

**O'Meara**, B. C. and J. M. Beaulieu (2016). “Past, future, and present of state-dependent models of diversification”. In: *American Journal of Botany*. 10.3732/ajb.1600012.

Beaulieu, J. M. and B. C. **O'Meara** (2016). “Detecting hidden diversification shifts in models of trait-dependent speciation and extinction”. In: *Systematic Biology*, p. syw022.

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**O'Meara**, B, K. Graham, S. Pellis and G. Burghardt (2015). “Evolutionary models for the retention of adult? adult social play in primates: The roles of diet and other factors associated with resource acquisition”. In: *Adaptive Behavior* 23.6, pp. 381-391.

Beaulieu, J. M, B. C. **O'Meara**, P. Crane and M. J. Donoghue (2015). “Heterogeneous Rates of Molecular Evolution and Diversification Could Explain the Triassic Age Estimate for Angiosperms”. In: *Systematic Biology* 64.5, pp. 869-878.

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- Soltis, D, M. Mort, M. Latvis, E. Mavrodiev, B. **O'Meara**, P. Soltis, J. Burleigh and R. De Casas (2013). "Phylogenetic relationships and character evolution analysis of Saxifragales using a supermatrix approach". In: *American Journal of Botany* 100.5, pp. 916-929.
- Darrin Hulsey, C, B. Keck, H. Alamillo and B. **O'Meara** (2013). "Mitochondrial genome primers for Lake Malawi cichlids". In: *Molecular Ecology Resources* 13.3, pp. 347-353.
- Beaulieu, J, B. **O'Meara** and M. Donoghue (2013). "Identifying hidden rate changes in the evolution of a binary morphological character: The evolution of plant habit in campanulid angiosperms". In: *Systematic Biology* 62.5, pp. 725-737.
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Beaulieu, J. and **B. O'Meara** (2014). “Hidden markov models for studying the evolution of binary morphological characters”. In: *Modern Phylogenetic Comparative Methods and their Application in Evolutionary Biology*, pp. 395-408.

## Teaching

### University Courses

I created a course on macroevolution targeted at upper level undergraduate and graduate students: we cover diversification, symbiosis, game theory, and more. I have also taught large introductory courses and small discussion seminars. In Spring 2016, as part of an NSF CAREER grant, I started a mixed online and in person course on phylogenetic methods. It is being revised to be taught again in Spring 2017. Note that the "HOFF joint lab group discussion" was a collaborative lab group meeting of the Hulsey-O'Meara-Fordyce-Fitzpatrick labs.

Year	Semester	Course Number	Topic	Enrollment	Percent Effort
2016	Spring	Biology150	Introductory biology	235	100
2016	Spring	EEB603	PhyloMeth	9 enrolled, plus dozens online	100
2015	Fall	EEB464	Macroevolution	27	100
2015	Fall	EEB607	Phyloseminar discussion	10	100
2015	Spring	EEB602	Phyloseminar discussion	13	100
2015	Spring	EEB607	HOFF joint lab group discussion	8	100
2014	Fall	EEB464	Macroevolution	28	100
2014	Fall	EEB504	HOFF joint lab group discussion	9	33
2014	Fall	EEB511	Graduate student core	12	50
2014	Fall	EEB607	Phyloseminar discussion	15	100
2014	Spring	Biology130	Introductory biology	94	100
2014	Spring	EEB602	Phyloseminar discussion	24	100
2014	Spring	EEB607	HOFF joint lab group discussion	6	25
2013	Fall	EEB464	Macroevolution	30	100
2013	Fall	EEB504	HOFF joint lab group discussion	11	25
2013	Fall	EEB511	Graduate student core	19	33
2013	Spring	EEB607	HOFF joint lab group discussion	8	25
2012	Fall	EEB464	Macroevolution	22	100
2012	Fall	EEB504	HOFF joint lab group discussion	5	25
2012	Fall	EEB511	Graduate student core	14	13
2012	Spring	Biology130	Introductory biology	206	100
2011	Fall	EEB464	Macroevolution	24	100
2011	Fall	EEB504	HOFF joint lab group discussion	7	25
2011	Fall	EEB503	EEB departmental seminar	44	100
2011	Fall	EEB511	Graduate student core	12	13
2011	Spring	EEB503	EEB departmental seminar	35	100
2011	Spring	EEB607	Speciation discussion	9	100



2010 Fall	EEB511	Graduate student core	8	13
2010 Spring	EEB607	Speciation discussion	13	100
2010 Spring	EEB409	Macroevolution	13	100

## Workshops

I organize and/or participate in numerous workshops or tutorials.

Year	Location	Topic	Role
2016	Knoxville, TN	Evolutionary Quantitative Genetics workshop at NIMBioS	Instructor
2015	Ann Arbor, MI	Comparative methods in R, SSB satellite meeting	Organizer/instructor
2015	Knoxville, TN	Evolutionary Quantitative Genetics workshop at NIMBioS	Instructor
2015	Guaruja, Brazil	SSB-sponsored phylogeography workshop at Evolution meetings	Instructor
2014	Knoxville, TN	Evolutionary Quantitative Genetics workshop at NIMBioS	Instructor
2014	Knoxville, TN	Computing in the Cloud NIMBioS Tutorial	Co-organizer/instructor
2014	Columbus, OH	PHRAPL workshop	Co-organizer/Instructor
2013	Lausanne, Switzerland	Markov processes in phylogenetics	Instructor
2013	Vienna, Austria	eFlower Summer School	Remote instructor
2013	Knoxville, TN	Evolutionary Quantitative Genetics workshop at NESCent	Instructor
2010	Knoxville, TN	Fast, Free Phylogenies: HPC for Phylogenetics NIMBioS Tutorial	Organizer/instructor
2010	Göteborg, Sweden	Species delimitation	Remote instructor
2008	Durham, NC	Computational phyloinformatics at NESCent	Instructor
2008	Bodega Bay, CA	Bodega Bay Workshop in Applied Phylogenetics	Instructor
2007	Bodega Bay, CA	Bodega Bay Workshop in Applied Phylogenetics	Instructor
2007	Davis, CA	Paleontology and its relevance to neontologists	Instructor
2006	Bodega Bay, CA	Bodega Bay Workshop in Applied Phylogenetics	Instructor
2006	Davis, CA	Model selection workshop	Organizer
2005	Bodega Bay, CA	Bodega Bay Workshop in Applied Phylogenetics	Instructor

## Funding

This is all in addition to other **funding my students have gotten** (NSF EAPSI grant, fellowships from NIMBioS and PEER (an NIH-funded program at UTK), Google Summer of Code funding), **funding for workshops or working groups** (from NIMBioS and the Society for Systematic Biologists), and **funding I got before my faculty position** (NESCent postdoctoral fellowship, NSF DDIG, NSF GRF, and various internal grants at UC Davis). Total external funding, so far, as a faculty member is \$2,508,362.

Year	Title	Funder	Amount
2015	CAREER: Reducing barriers for comparative methods (PI)	NSF	\$738,000
2015	Collaborative Research: ABI Development: An open infrastructure to disseminate phylogenetic knowledge	NSF	\$148,101
2014	Population genetics-based codon models	NSF	\$470,000
2013	R interface to Encyclopedia of Life (Rubenstein Fellowship)	Encyclopedia of Life	\$50,000
2013	Collaborative Research: Phylogeographic Inference Using Approximated Likelihoods	NSF	\$340,000
2012	rPlant	iPlant	\$98,252
2012	Historical naming traditions and cryptic speciation bias biodiversity estimates in transatlantic agaric fungi	NSF	\$393,074

2011 iPlant: Trait evolution group, year 2	iPlant	\$138,590
2010 iPlant: Trait evolution group, year 1	iPlant	\$132,345

## Presentations

**Bold** indicates presentation was delivered by me; otherwise, I was a coauthor. Also see various workshops under teaching.

**September 2015:** Talk on heterogeneity at Texas A&M

**June 2014:** Talk on floral evolution at Evolution 2014 meeting; co-lead author was Stacey Smith, coauthors were W SArmbruster, L Harder, C Hardy, L Hileman, L Hufford, A Litt, S Magallon, S Smith, P Stevens, C Fenster, P Diggle.

June 2014: Talk on phylogeography at Evolution 2014 meeting; lead author and speaker was Nathan Jackson, other authors were A. Garcia, B. Carstens, and B. O'Meara.

June 2014: Talk on biogeography at Evolution 2014; lead author and speaker was Katie Massana (grad student), coauthors were J. Beaulieu, B. O'Meara, and N. Matzke.

June 2014: Talk on Hawaiian island plant immigration at Evolution 2014; lead author and speaker was Jeremy Beaulieu, coauthor was Brian O'Meara.

**May 2014:** Smithsonian Phylopizza

**June, 2013:** Symposium talk on species delimitation, Evolution meetings

**Aug. 2012:** Invited talk on comparative methods, Institute of Bioinformatics, U. of Georgia

**June, 2012:** Symposium talk on ABC and comparative methods, Evolution meetings

**March, 2011:** Phyloseminar talk on ABC and comparative methods. Apple Keynote and PDF.

**May, 2010:** Talk on phylogenetics and iPToL at iPlant meeting in Las Vegas

**April, 2010:** Invited talk on species delimitation at Louisiana State University

**Nov., 2009:** Talk at NIMBios about species delimitation and species tree inference

**Mar., 2009:** Talk to UT Knoxville EEB

**June, 2008:** Talk at Evolution 2008 in Minnesota

**June, 2008:** Poster at Evolution 2008 in Minnesota

**June, 2008:** Invited Joel Keizer Prize in Theoretical Biology lecture at University of California, Davis

**May, 2008:** Invited symposium talk at Interface 2008 [statistics conference] in NC

**April, 2008:** Invited talk to the Organismic and Evolutionary Biology department at Harvard U.

**Jan., 2008:** Invited symposium talk at Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology meeting in TX

**Oct., 2007:** Invited talk at Duke Systematics Discussion Group

**Oct., 2007:** Talk at NESCent brown bag lunch series

**June, 2007:** Exit seminar

**June, 2006:** Talk at Evolution 2006 in NY

**Feb., 2006:** Poster at CIPRES all hands meeting in TX

**July, 2005:** Talk at CIPRES-funded graduate student meeting in NM

**June, 2005:** Talk on Brownie at Evolution meetings in Alaska.

**Dec, 2004:** Presentation at the Bay Area Biosystematists meeting

**Dec., 2001:** Talk at Entomology Society of America national meeting in CA

**June, 2001:** Poster at Evolution 2001 in TN

**Dec., 2000:** Poster at the Entomology Society of America national meeting in Canada

## Mentoring, Postdocs

I have mentored numerous postdocs off of my own grants and/or as one of their chosen NIMBioS mentors. Note that NIMBioS postdocs pursue independent research projects but choose one faculty member to mentor

them in math and another to mentor them in biology (I have served in both roles).

Name	Duration	NIMBioS	Current Position
Hugo Alamillo	2011-2012	N	Assistant Professor North Seattle College
Barb Banbury	2010-2012	N	Statistical Analyst at Fred Hutch
Jeremy Beaulieu	2012-present	Both	
Juanjuan (JJ) Crosskey (formerly Chai)	2011-2013	Y	Member of Comparative Genomics group at Oak Ridge National Lab
Nathan Jackson	2013-present	N	
Tony Jhwueng	2009-2011	Y	Assistant Professor Feng-Chia U., Taiwan
Sandy Kawano	2014-2016	Y	Starting as Assistant Professor at CSU Long Beach in Aug. 2017
Michelle Lawing	2012-2014	Y	Assistant Professor Texas A&M
Ryan Martin	2012-2013	Y	Assistant Professor Case Western U
Nick Matzke	2013-2015	Y	DECRA Fellow at The Australian National University in Canberra
Megan Rua	2015-2016	Y	Assistant Professor Wright State U
Sergei Tarasov	2016-present	Y	

## Mentoring, Grad students in my lab

Name	Stage	Time in Lab	Note
Sam Borstein	PhD student	2014-present	
Jenn Bosco	PhD student	2012-present	Co-advised with Susan Riechert
Katie Massana	PhD student	2012-present	
Orlando Schwery	PhD student	2014-present	

## Mentoring, Undergrad students in my lab

Name	Stage	Time in Lab	Note
Christian Yarber	Undergrad	2015-present	

## Mentoring, Grad student committees

In addition to my own students, of course.

Name	Department
Will Atwood	Geology
Jen Bauer	EEB
Sharon Clemmensen	EEB
Troy Fadiga	Geology
Aaron Floden	EEB
Mauricio Gonzalez-Forero	EEB
Alannie-Grace Grant	EEB
Phillip Hollingsworth	EEB

Whitaker Hoskins	EEB
Will Howell	EEB
Ivan Juric	EEB
Cedric Landerer	EEB
Jasper Lee	Microbiology
Bryan Looney	EEB
Liam Mueller	EEB
Tyson Paulson	EEB
Todd Pierson	EEB
Ryan Rooney	EEB
Max Rupp	EEB
Geetha Saarunya S	GST
Leonidas Salichos	Vanderbilt
Marisol Sanchez-Garcia	EEB
Sarah Sheffield	EEB
Jordan Utley	GST
Jess Welch	EEB
Rachel Wooliver	EEB

## Service

- Communications Director for the Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB), 2016-present
- Co-organizer of iEvoBio meeting, 2016
- Co-organizer of SSB symposium on Breaking Barriers: Empirical, Theoretical, and Gender Issues in Phylogenetics for Evolution meetings in Brazil, 2015
- Co-organizer of SSB satellite meeting in May, 2015
- Co-organizer of iEvoBio meeting (met with SSB) May 2015
- Co-organizer of Evolution meetings, 2014, including sole organizer for lightning talks
- Co-organizer of iEvoBio meeting, 2014
- Member of Phylotastic leadership team (group arranging hackathons for making trees more reusable), 2012-present
- Organizer of lighting talks for Evolution meetings, 2013
- UTK Faculty advisor for Darwin Day Tennessee, 2012-present
- UTK Department representative on Dean's advisory council, 2012-2014
- UTK EEB Undergraduate affairs committee, 2012-2013
- UTK EEB Graduate admissions committee, 2013-present
- Chair, UTK EEB Web committee, 2011-present
- Co-organizer of Comparative Methods in R hackathon, 2007
- Bay Area Biosystematists Steering Committee: 2004-2007
- Secretary Cambridge Entomological Club, 2001-2002
- Reviewer for *Science*, *Heredity*, *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, *Systematic Biology*, *Evolution*, *Systematic Entomology*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences*, US National Science Foundation, and others.