

# Simon Kapitza

Quantitative & Applied Ecology Group (QAEco)  
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I am a global change ecologist researching interactions between socioeconomic and biophysical drivers of biodiversity change. My key strength is in interdisciplinary thinking to understand, capture and predict the impact of global transitions of the anthropocene on ecosystems, biodiversity and species.

## Skills

<b>Data Analysis</b>	Proficient R user with experience in knitr, sweave, and RMarkdown, as well as integration of basic C++ via the RCpp package. Particularly experienced with very large spatial data sets and parallel processing (MaxEnt, Regression Trees, Linear Mixed Models). GitHub for version control. Intermediate experience with Python, SQL, ArcGIS, QGIS.
<b>Leadership skills</b>	Initiating and leading interdisciplinary research in our most recent project. Currently planning research collaborations with institutes in Europe, with three scheduled seminars.
<b>Languages</b>	<b>German</b> ●●● <b>English</b> ●●● <b>Spanish</b> ●●○ <b>French</b> ●○○

## Education

<b>2017 - present</b>	<b>PhD - Science</b> <i>University of Melbourne</i> Supervisors: Prof Brendan Wintle, Dr Nick Golding Project: Global integrated assessment of biophysical and socioeconomic drivers of biodiversity change
<b>2013 - 2016</b>	<b>MSc - Environmental Sciences (High Distinction)</b> , <i>Albert-Ludwigs-Universitaet Freiburg</i> Supervisors: Prof Carsten Dormann, Prof Brendan Wintle Project: Alleviating climate change uncertainty through improved modelling: Australian Great Desert Skinks under a changing fire regime (in collaboration with QAEco)
<b>2009 - 2013</b>	<b>BSc Hon - Environmental Science and Politics</b> <i>University of Stirling</i> Supervisor: Prof Daisy Dent Project: Rural Livelihoods in Changing Contexts: Causes and Impacts of Deforestation in Ta Veaeng District, Cambodia
<b>2011 - 2012</b>	<b>Study Abroad</b> <i>University of Sydney</i>

## Presentations

<b>2019</b>	<b>The economy, climate change and biodiversity</b> Biogeography Colloquium, Humboldt University of Berlin
<b>2018</b>	<b>Integrating drivers of change: an assessment of bio-physical and socio-economic climate change impacts on species habitat</b> Australian Ecological Society Conference, Brisbane British Ecological Society Annual Meeting, Birmingham <b>Accounting for socio-economic impacts in biodiversity modelling</b> British Ecological Society Quantitative Ecology Spatial Interest Group conference, St. Andrews <b>Assessing direct and indirect impacts of climate change on bird habitat</b> Poster, International Statistical Ecology Conference, St. Andrews <b>Indirect impacts of climate change on future bird habitat in Vietnam and Australia</b> PhD confirmation seminar, School of BioSciences, University of Melbourne <b>Comparing the biophysical and economic impacts of climate change on biodiversity</b> Visiting scholar seminar, Helmholtz Institute for Zoology and Wildlife Research, Berlin
<b>2017</b>	<b>Accounting for socioeconomic drivers of biodiversity change: A novel integrated assessment framework</b> Seminar, Quantitative & Applied Ecology Group, University of Melbourne
<b>2016</b>	<b>Alleviating climate change uncertainty through improved modelling: Great Desert Skinks under a changing fire regime</b> MSc completion seminar, School of BioSciences, University of Melbourne

## Workshops

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<b>2019</b>	<b>CBRI Grand Challenges</b> University of Melbourne Computational Biology Research Initiative
<b>2018</b>	<b>Spatial Point Pattern Analysis</b> Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Mathematical and Statistical Frontiers <b>Combining Different Data Types In a Single Model</b> International Statistical Ecology Conference 2018

## Publications

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**Kapitza, S.**, Ha, P. V., Golding, N., Kompas, T., Cadenhead, N. C. R., Bal, P., Wintle, B.A., Assessing biophysical and socio-economic impacts of climate change on biodiversity (under review)  
**Kapitza, S.**, Golding, N., Improved spatially-explicit land-use change modelling to predict future land use and biodiversity outcomes (in prep)  
**Kapitza, S.**, Cadenhead, N., Wintle, B., Alleviating climate change uncertainty through improved modelling: Great Desert Skinks under a changing fire regime (in prep)

## Awards and scholarships

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<b>2018</b>	<b>Wiley Award for Best Poster</b> , International Statistical Ecology Conference, St. Andrews <b>Science Abroad Travelling Scholarship</b> , University of Melbourne (AUD 1500) <b>Financial Support for Research or Conference Travel</b> , University of Melbourne (AUD 2000) <b>Drummond Travel Award</b> (AUD 1500)
<b>2017</b>	<b>Australian Research Council Discovery top-up grant</b> (AUD 21,000) <b>Melbourne International Research Scholarship</b> (AUD 120,000)
<b>2015</b>	<b>DAAD PROMOS Scholarship grant</b> (2300 EUR)

## Academic activities

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<b>2019 - present</b>	<b>Ecology and Evolution PhD Program</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>Orygen Youth Health International Student Welfare Project</b> Peer leader
<b>2018 - present</b>	<b>Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies</b>
<b>2018 - present</b>	<b>British Ecological Society Quantitative Ecology Special Interest</b> Committee Member
<b>2017 - present</b>	<b>QAEco Diversity and Inclusion Group</b> Committee Member
<b>2017</b>	<b>QAEco mentoring scheme</b> Organiser
<b>2015 - 2016</b>	<b>Staff-Student Consultative Committee, University of Freiburg</b> Student Rep

## Professional experience

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<b>2016 - present</b>	<b>Research Assistant</b> Dr Luke Kelly and Prof Brendan Wintle (University of Melbourne)
<b>2014 - 2015</b>	<b>Research Assistant</b> Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems
<b>2012 - 2013</b>	<b>Social Media Manager</b> Creative Stirling
<b>2012</b>	<b>Intern</b> German Embassy Colombo
<b>2011</b>	<b>Intern</b> German Agro Action e.V. Cambodia
<b>2008 - 2009</b>	<b>Workshop coordinator</b> Youth Educational Institute Jugendbildungsstaette Juist

## Societies

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British Ecological Society, Australian Ecological Society, BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany)

## Referees

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<b>Prof Brendan Wintle</b> MSc and PhD supervisor Director NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub University of Melbourne and University of Queensland brendan.wintle@unimelb.edu.au	<b>Dr Nick Golding</b> PhD Supervisor Research Fellow QAEco University of Melbourne nicholas.golding@unimelb.edu.au
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Melbourne, May 29, 2019  
Simon Kapitza