

# Kelly L. Sovacool

✉ [sovacool@umich.edu](mailto:sovacool@umich.edu)  
🖥 [sovacool.dev](http://sovacool.dev)  
🌐 [kelly-sovacool](#)  
🌐 [kelly-sovacool](#)

---

## Education

- 2018-present **PhD Bioinformatics**, *University of Michigan*,  
Dept. of Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics
- 2014-2018 **BS Biology**, *University of Kentucky*,  
Dept. of Biology, Minor: Computer Science

---

## Research Experience

- 2019-present **Graduate Student Researcher**, [Schloss Lab](#),  
Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Michigan
- Developing bioinformatics pipelines & software for microbial ecology.
  - Analyzing metagenomic and 16S rRNA amplicon sequence data.
  - Applying machine learning methods to microbiome-based classification problems.
- 2018-2019 **Rotation Student Researcher**, *Program in Biomedical Sciences*,  
University of Michigan
- 2015-2018 **Undergraduate Lab Assistant**, [Moseley Bioinformatics Lab](#),  
Dept. of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry, University of Kentucky
- Developed a computational tool for identifying sets of orthologous and paralogous gene products in whole genomes to facilitate collinearity analysis and detection of gene duplication events.
- 2016-2018 **BIO395 Independent Research Student**, [Weisrock Lab](#),  
Dept. of Biology, University of Kentucky
- Developed scripts and a SNP calling pipeline for amplicon sequence data.
  - Population structure analysis of the *Ambystoma tigrinum* species complex.
  - Bayesian species delimitation of the *Desmognathus fuscus* species complex.
- 2015-2016 **Undergraduate Lab Assistant**, [Jaromczyk Lab](#),  
Dept. of Computer Science, University of Kentucky
- Maintained the *Epichloë festucae* genome project database.
  - Analyzed RNA-seq data of *Chenopodium quinoa* and coffee ringspot virus.

---

## Awards

### Grants & Fellowships

- 2020 **Conference Travel Grant**, *Rackham Graduate School*, (\$800)  
University of Michigan

- 2019-2021 **NIH T32 Bioinformatics Training Program Fellow**  
University of Michigan
- Dec 2017 **Oswald Research & Creativity Award**, *UK Office of Undergraduate Research*, 2nd place in the Biological Sciences category (\$200)  
University of Kentucky
- May-Aug 2017 **Summer Research Grant**, *UK Office of Undergraduate Research*, (\$2,000)  
University of Kentucky
- 2014-2018 **Presidential Scholarship**, (out-of-state full tuition)  
University of Kentucky
- Honors
- May 2018 **Graduated Cum Laude with Departmental Honors in Biology**  
University of Kentucky
- May 2018 **Biology Undergraduate Research Award Nominee**  
University of Kentucky
- 2014-2018 **Lewis Honors College**  
University of Kentucky

## Service

- 2021-present **CoderSpaces co-host**, *U-M ISR Data Science Hub*  
Host office hours at a weekly virtual help session for data science practitioners.
- 2018-present **Executive Committee Member: Open Source Technical Lead**, *Girls Who Code at UM-DCMB*
- o Plan, apply for funding, develop curriculum, and maintain resources to teach introductory Python programming & data science to young women.
  - o Facilitate collaborative development and maintenance of our teaching resources.
  - o Organize our year-round Club for high school women.
  - o Organize our annual Data Science Summer Experience for high school women in the Detroit area.
- 2019-present **Organizer and Maintainer**, *U-M Software Carpentry*
- o Co-lead development & maintenance of a [custom curriculum](#) for workshops teaching programming skills for reproducible research.
  - o Maintain the website and organize workshops.
- 2019-present **Graduate Student Coordinator**, *U-M Data Analysis Networking Group*
- o Organize monthly meetings & a one-day symposium for researchers to sharpen their data analysis skills.
  - o Funded by a Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop grant.
- 2009-present **Live Sound Engineer**, *for various churches and non-profit organizations*.
- o Set up, maintain, repair, and operate front of house, monitor, and recording systems during sound checks, rehearsals, services, and concerts.
  - o Train new sound techs in the art and science of live sound.
- 2021-present **Peer review for scientific journals**, *PLOS ONE (2)*

---

## Teaching Experience

- 2019-present **Facilitator & Capstone Project Mentor**, *Girls Who Code at UM-DCMB*
- o 12-22 July 2021. Virtual Data Science Summer Experience.
  - o Aug 2020 - May 2021. Weekly virtual Club for high schoolers.
  - o 06-16 July 2020. Virtual Data Science Summer Experience.
  - o Aug 2019 - May 2020. Weekly Club for high schoolers.
  - o 15-19 July 2019. Data Science Summer Experience in Detroit, MI.
  - o Jan-May 2019. Weekly Club for high schoolers.
- 2018-present **Software Carpentry instructor**, *U-M Carpentries*, [umcarpentries.org](https://umcarpentries.org)
- o 11-12 Jan 2021. Lead instructor for [U-M WISE](#)-sponsored virtual workshop.
  - o 06-07 Jan 2020. Lead instructor for [U-M WISE](#)-sponsored workshop.
  - o 01-02 July 2019. Workshop instructor.
  - o 22-23 May 2019. Workshop helper.
  - o 01 Mar 2019. Workshop helper.
  - o 17-18 Dec 2018. Workshop helper.
- 25 Apr 2019 **DNA Day Ambassador**, *MI DNA Day*, Epigenetics & scientific journeys, Ann Arbor, MI
- 20 Mar 2019 **Workshop helper**, *Graduate Society of Black Engineers and Scientists*, Data visualization with Python workshop, University of Michigan
- 16 Mar 2019 **Capstone Activity Leader**, *Females Excelling More in Math, Engineering, & Science*, Binary numbers through Ozobots with GWC at UM-DCMB, University of Michigan
- 2012-2018 **Tutor**, *freelance*, for high school and college students in Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, Computer Science, and Bioinformatics.

---

## Presentations

- Jun 2020 **ASM Microbe**, *OptiFit: a fast method for fitting amplicon sequences to existing OTUs*, Poster, Cancelled due to COVID-19.
- Apr 2018 **Showcase for Undergraduate Scholars**, *Developing a Global Homology Analysis for Comparative Genomics*, Poster, University of Kentucky
- Apr 2018 **Systems Biology & Omics Integration Seminar**, *Developing a Global Homology Analysis for Comparative Genomics*, Talk, University of Kentucky
- Apr 2018 **National Conference on Undergraduate Research**, *Developing a Global Homology Analysis for Comparative Genomics*, Poster, University of Central Oklahoma
- Apr 2016 **Showcase for Undergraduate Scholars**, *Processing RNA-seq Reads of Plants Infected with the Coffee Ringspot Virus*, Poster, University of Kentucky
- Apr 2016 **UT-KBRIN Bioinformatics Summit**, *Processing RNA-seq Reads of Plants Infected with the Coffee Ringspot Virus*, Poster, Cadiz, KY

Apr 2015 **Showcase for Undergraduate Scholars**, *The Effect of Meditation on Performance*, Poster, University of Kentucky

---

## Continuing Education

- 27-30 Jan 2020 **Building Tidy Tools workshop at rstudio::conf**, *RStudio, PBC*  
San Francisco, CA
- 17-19 Dec 2019 **Winter School in Research Software Engineering**, [US Research Software Sustainability Institute](#)  
Seattle, WA
- 03-04 Jun 2019 **Software Carpentry Instructor Training**, *The Carpentries*  
University of Michigan
- 01-05 May 2019 **PyCon Education Summit & Conference**, *Python Software Foundation*  
Cleveland, OH
- 24-26 Apr 2019 **MICROBIOL 612.2**, *Riffomonas minimalR workshop*  
University of Michigan

---

## Software Contributions

- mikropml User-Friendly R Package for Supervised Machine Learning Pipelines.  
Co-author and maintainer. <https://github.com/SchlossLab/mikropml>
- mothuR R package to work with mothur output files.  
Co-author and maintainer. <https://github.com/SchlossLab/mothuR>
- mothur Command-Line Tool for Processing 16S rRNA Gene Sequence Data.  
Contributor. <https://github.com/mothur/mothur>

---

## Publications

Begüm D. Topçuoğlu, Zena Lapp, **Kelly L. Sovacool**, Evan Snitkin, Jenna Wiens, and Patrick D. Schloss. Mikropml: User-Friendly R Package for Supervised Machine Learning Pipelines. *JOSS*, 6(61):3073, May 2021.

Kathryn M. Everson, Levi N. Gray, Angela G. Jones, Nicolette M. Lawrence, Mary E. Foley, **Kelly L. Sovacool**, Justin D. Kratovil, Scott Hotaling, Paul M. Hime, Andrew Storfer, Gabriela Parra-Olea, Ruth Percino-Daniel, X. Aguilar-Miguel, Eric M. O'Neill, Luis Zambrano, H. Bradley Shaffer, and David W. Weisrock. Geography is more important than life history in the recent diversification of the tiger salamander complex. *PNAS*, 118(17), Apr. 2021.

Ada K. Hagan, Nicholas A. Lesniak, Marcy J. Balunas, Lucas Bishop, William L. Close, Matthew D. Doherty, Amanda G. Elmore, Kaitlin J. Flynn, Geoffrey D. Hannigan, Charlie C. Koumpouras, Matthew L. Jenior, Ariangela J. Kozik, Kathryn McBride, Samara B. Rifkin, Joshua M. A.

Stough, **Kelly L. Sovacool**, Marc A. Sze, Sarah Tomkovich, Begum D. Topcuoglu, and Patrick D. Schloss. Ten simple rules to increase computational skills among biologists with Code Clubs. *PLOS Computational Biology*, 16(8):e1008119, Aug. 2020.

Michael M. Goodin, Mark Farman, Harrison Inocencio, Chanyong Jang, Jerzy W. Jaromczyk, Neil Moore, and **Kelly L. Sovacool**. Processing RNA-Seq data of plants infected with coffee ringspot virus. In *Proceedings of the 15th Annual UT-KBRIN Bioinformatics Summit 2016: Cadiz, KY, USA. 8-10 April 2016*. BMC Bioinformatics, Aug. 2016.