
KELLY J. WALLACE

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PERMANENT ADDRESS:

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy Program in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior

University of Texas at Austin Advisors: Dr. Hans A Hofmann & Dr. Michael J Ryan

Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences, Minor in Music, January 2015

Cornell University Advisor: Dr. Alex Ophir

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research investigates the ecological, behavioral, physiological, and neuromolecular mechanisms underlying how an animal's social environment influences their behavior and cognition. I have explored this topic via the monogamous prairie vole *Microtus ochrogaster*, the western mosquitofish *Gambusia affinis*, and social African cichlid *Astatotilapia burtoni*.
Keywords: animal cognition, social neuroscience, behavioral ecology, individual variation, neural gene expression, cortisol, testosterone, dopamine, vasopressin

AWARDS

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology (National Science Foundation, \$138,000) 2020

Ford Foundation 2017 Predoctoral Fellowship (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine \$72,000) 2017

Travel Award (Society of Behavioral Neuroendocrinology) 2020

University Graduate Continuing Fellowship (University of Texas at Austin, \$44,000) 2020

Broadening Participation Award (Society for Integrative & Comparative Biology, \$500) 2020

Junior Scientist Workshop Award (Howard Hughes Medical Institute) 2019

BEACON Student Travel Fund Award (BEACON Center for Evolution in Action, \$500) 2019

First Place Student Poster Award (Ecological Integration Symposium, Texas A&M, \$100) 2019

IB Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (University of Texas at Austin, \$8,000) 2019

IB Joint Graduate Program Travel Award (University of Texas at Austin, \$580) 2018

Best Student Presentation Award (7th Meeting of Poeciliid Biologists) 2017

EcoLabs Research Grant (Texas EcoLabs, \$2,100) 2017

Graduate Dean's Prestigious Supplement (University of Texas at Austin, \$3,000) 2017-2019

Graduate School Continuing Fellowship (University of Texas at Austin, \$8,000) 2017

Diversity Travel Award (Animal Behavior Society, \$300) 2016

EEB Startup Fellowship (University of Texas at Austin, \$2,000) 2016

Graduate School Mentoring Fellowship (University of Texas at Austin, \$36,000) 2015

Charles H. Turner Award (Animal Behavior Society) 2014

PUBLICATIONS

MA Rice, LE Hobbs, **KJ Wallace**, AG Ophir (2017) Cryptic sexual dimorphism in spatial memory and hippocampal oxytocin receptors in prairie voles (*Microtus ochrogaster*) *Hormones and Behavior* **95**: 94–102

KJ Wallace, RT Rausch, ME Ramsey, ME Cummings (2020) Sex differences in cognitive performance, style across domains in mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) *Animal Cognition*, doi.org/10.1007/s10071-020-01367-2

MANUSCRIPTS

KJ Wallace, JM York Using a Systems Change Framework to Evaluate Academic Equity & Climate Efforts in a Graduate Program (*in review*, preprint available on BioRxiv, doi.org/10.1101/848101)

KJ Wallace, HA Hofmann. Decision-making in a social world: integrating animal cognition and social neuroscience (*invited manuscript in prep*, *Current Opinion in Neurobiology*)

TK Solomon-Lane, **KJ Wallace**, RM Butler, HA Hofmann. Social behavioral consistency over development and across contexts in a highly social cichlid fish (*in prep*)

KJ Wallace, HA Hofmann. Cognitive-Behavioral variation in dynamic social communities of highly social cichlid fish (*in prep*)

**RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE**

PhD Candidate, Dr. Hans A Hofmann Lab, co-advised by Dr. Michael J Ryan

The University of Texas at Austin, 2015 - present *cichlid.biosci.utexas.edu*

My dissertation research investigates how changes to social communities of *Astatotilapia burtoni* influence individual behavior, cognition, physiology, and neural gene expression.

Research Assistant, Dr. Alex G Ophir Lab, Cornell University 2013-2015 *www.ophirlab.com*

**ORAL
PRESENTATIONS**

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Texas at Austin, 2020

Invited Talk: *Fish are smarter than we think!*

Brain Behavior, and Evolution Seminar, University of Texas at Austin, 2020

Talk: *Neuroendocrine basis of social competence & cognition in a highly social cichlid fish*

Janelia Junior Scientist Workshop on Mechanistic Cognitive Neuroscience, HHMI, 2019

Talk: *Neuroendocrine basis of social competence & cognition in a highly social cichlid fish*

Brain Behavior, and Evolution Seminar, University of Texas at Austin, 2018

Talk: *Sex differences in Cognitive Style and Domain Relationships in Mosquitofish (G. Affinis)*

Conference of Ford Fellows, National Academy of Sciences, 2018

Talk: *Sex differences in cognitive style across domains in mosquitofish (Gambusia affinis)*

Annual Meeting of the Animal Behavior Society, University of Wisconsin, 2018

Talk: *Sex differences in cognitive style across domains in mosquitofish (Gambusia affinis)*

Brain Behavior, and Evolution Seminar, University of Texas at Austin, 2018

Talk: *Comparative cognition in Gambusia affinis*

7th Meeting of Poeciliid Biologists, Oklahoma University, 2017

Talk: *Investigating individual variation in cognition and behavior in Gambusia affinis*

Brain Behavior, and Evolution Seminar, University of Texas at Austin, 2017

Talk: *Investigating individual variation in cognition*

Integrative Biology Graduate Research Symposium, University of Texas at Austin, 2016

Talk: *Stress and cognition: an improvement on a numerosity learning assay*

Cornell Undergraduate Research Board Fall Forum, Cornell University, 2014

Poster: *Sex differences in spatial memory, hippocampal volume, and OTR Expression*

Annual Meeting of the Animal Behavior Society, Princeton University, 2014

Poster: *Sex differences in spatial memory, hippocampal volume, and OTR Expression*

**POSTER
PRESENTATIONS**

Society for Integrative & Comparative Biology, Austin TX, 2020

Poster: *Neuroendocrine basis of social competence & cognition in a highly social cichlid fish*

Janelia Junior Scientist Workshop on Mechanistic Cognitive Neuroscience, HHMI, 2019

Poster: *Neuroendocrine basis of social competence & cognition in a highly social cichlid fish*

Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, Indiana University, 2019

Poster: *Neuroendocrine basis of social competence & cognition in a highly social cichlid fish*

Spring Symposium in Behavioral Epigenetics, University of Texas at Austin, 2019

Poster: *Social Competence & Cognition in Dynamic Communities of a Highly Social Cichlid Fish*

Ecological Integration Symposium, Texas A&M University, 2019

Poster: *Social Competence & Cognition in Dynamic Communities of a Highly Social Cichlid Fish*

Conference of Ford Fellows, National Academy of Sciences, 2018

Poster: *Comparative Cognition in Gambusia affinis*

Spring Symposium in Behavioral Epigenetics, University of Texas at Austin, 2018

Poster: *Comparative Cognition in Gambusia affinis*

BEACON Congress, Michigan State University, 2016

Poster: *Stress and cognition: an improvement on a numerosity learning assay*

Annual Meeting of the Animal Behavior Society, University of Missouri, 2016

Poster: *Stress and cognition: an improvement on a numerosity learning assay*

Evolution Meeting, University of Texas at Austin, 2016

Poster: *Stress and cognition: an improvement on a numerosity learning assay*

Cornell Undergraduate Research Board Fall Forum, Cornell University, 2014

Poster: *Sex differences in spatial memory, hippocampal volume, and OTR Expression*

Annual Meeting of the Animal Behavior Society, Princeton University, 2014

Poster: *Sex differences in spatial memory, hippocampal volume, and OTR Expression*

SKILLS

Computer Programming: Python, ffmpeg, R/RStudio, HTML, Command Line, Jenkins, ImageJ, basic electronic circuitry, Github, Alibi Security, BORIS, CowLog, Peak Scanner

Laboratory Techniques: Tissue microdissection, Cryostat, Cresyl Violet, Leica light and fluorescence microscopy, blood hormone collection, RNA extraction, qPCR

Behavioral Procedures: VIE & Bead Tagging, fish husbandry & aquatic facility care, mate choice, scototaxis, two-choice sociality, Morris water maze, detour reaching task, shuttlebox

Statistical Analyses: linear regression with interaction effects, generalized linear models, hierarchical clustering analysis with bootstrapping, t-tests, analysis of variance, survival analysis, heatmap visualization, covariance matrices

AFFILIATIONS

Society for Integrative & Comparative Biology
Animal Behavior Society
Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology
BEACON Center for Evolution in Action
Ford Fellows Foundation
American Society of Naturalists

REVIEWS

Hormones and Behavior (1)
Scientific Reports (1)
Trends in Cognitive Sciences (1)

**GRAUDATE
COURSEWORK**

Learning and Memory (M. Domjan)
Animal Behavior (M. Cummings, M. Ryan)
Subjects and Skills in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior
I (H. Ochman, C. Wilke) & II, (D. Hillis, L. Meyers)
Cognitive Ecology (M. Ryan)
Advanced Statistics (J. Hixon)

**TEACHING
EXPERIENCE &
CERTIFICATION**

Teaching Assistant: *Bio370 Evolution* (H. Ochman & T. Juenger)
Teaching Assistant: *Bio 359K Animal Behavior* (M. Cummings)
Grading Assistant: *Bio 373 Ecology* (L. Gonzalez)
Advanced Teaching Preparation Series Certificate, 2019 (semester-long workshop series)
R Analysis for Behavioral Data, 2019 (I developed a tutorial on R basics for behavioral data, presented to 92 students in *Bio359K*)

MENTORSHIP

I have trained 37 undergraduate and three high school volunteers (including twenty female students and eighteen student of different racial and ethnic minorities) on skills including experimental design, coding, fish husbandry, electronic circuitry, and data analysis.

Undergraduate Students Supervised (University of Texas at Austin)

Camille Akin, Matt Armstrong, Jeffrey Alliston, Lauren Borland, Connor Bianchi, Kavyaa Choudhary, Rahi Dakwala, Rachel Ellerd, Marisa Farjado, Caleb Fleischer, Lily Guevara, Daniel Hauser, Randa Kabbani, Sam Kagel, Kathryn M Kaihlanen, Amogh Kashyap, Rachel Koeter, Layla Kutty, Don Le, Matthew Lee, Presley Mackey, Claire Mayorga, Jessika McFarland, An Nguyen, Lily Parsi, Huynh Pham, Adam Redmer, Albert Reyes, Remedy Rule, Vishaal Sakthivelnathan, Eduardo Saucedo, Madison Schumm, Jennifer Schlauch, Benjamin Whelan, Anirudh Yerrapragada, Karleen Wu, Melody Ziari

Highschool Students Supervised (Crockett High School)

Isaac Carroll, Gabe Rocha, Isaac Munoz

Crockett High School Mentorship Program, 2015-2016, 2018-2019

I have mentored three students from Crockett High School on their independent research projects in the lab, as well as led paper discussions and guided development of research presentations.

Navigating the Academic Mentor-Mentee Relationship, 2020

Talk, University of Texas at Austin Department of Integrative Biology

MEDIA & COMMUNICATION**UT “Choose Texas” Promotional Video, 2019** (<https://vimeo.com/343679289>)

I was one of three graduate students across the University featured in a promotional video for the Graduate School at the University of Texas at Austin.

Long-View Micro School Outreach Presentation, 2019

Talk: *Fish are smarter than we think!*

Science Under the Stars, 2018 (<https://scienceunderthestars.org/>)

Science Under the Stars is an organization run by graduate students in the Integrative Biology Department at UT that hosts monthly outdoor talks with children’s activities, tours, and local wildlife displays. I am a member of the volunteer committee, and in September 2018 I presented an outdoor talk designed for the general public titled “*Fish are smarter than we think!*”

They Blinded Me With Science Radio Presentation, 2017

I presented my research and background on fish cognition and behavior on the weekly radio show (KVRX 91.7), hosted by UT graduate students.

Capital of Texas Undergraduate Research Conference, 2018

I judged oral presentations at the first annual CTURC, hosted by the Texas Undergraduate Research Journal for students across multiple college campuses in Texas.

University of Texas at Austin CNS Undergraduate Research Forum Judge, 2016**DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY****UT College of Natural Sciences Diversity and Inclusion Committee, 2019**

I was selected to serve on the college’s D&I committee (<https://cns.utexas.edu/diversity/d-i-committee>) which has organized college-wide initiatives such as the “You Belong Here” campaign, gender-neutral bathrooms, and a faculty lunch-series.

Integrative Biology Diversity and Inclusivity Committee, 2017-present

I am one of three founding student representatives of the Integrative Biology Department Diversity and Inclusivity Committee. The committee is developing policies and procedures for handling student concerns and encouraging diversity in applicants to the programs.

Natural Sciences Council Scholarship Committee Reviewer, 2020

I was recruited as an outside reviewer to assess ~40 student applications to the Scholarship Committee’s Diversity and Inclusion Award (\$5,000). I additionally provided feedback to the committee on the application rubric.

Engaging in Equitable and Inclusive Recruitment Practices, 2019

I co-developed and led a seminar and discussion on recruiting diverse graduate students, postdoctoral researchers and faculty (~40 attendees). This event led to the creation of a “Diverse Recruitment Resource Guide” for the department.

Sexual Harassment in the Field, 2019

I co-developed and led a seminar and discussion on sexual harassment in field research (~40 attendees), which consisted of paper discussions and walkthroughs of scenarios.

African American Pioneers in Evolutionary Science: The Untold Story, 2017

I participated in a BEACON-funded project that met in April 2017 to develop scholarly publications on the history/sociology of African American scientists in evolution and generate goals for improving diversity recruitment and inclusivity for students in evolutionary biology.

Passport to UT Mentorship Program, 2017-Present

I have mentored three international students (China, Ghana) during their transition to the United States and to the University of Texas at Austin.

Black History Month: Celebrating Black Scientists, 2016

I collaborated with the UT Austin EEB Program to run a social media campaign during black history month to celebrate black scientists. This work inspired an additional program highlighting Hispanic-American scientists in September 2017.

**PROGRAM
DEVELOPEPMENT
& SCIENCE
POLICY**

EEB Graduate Student Representative, 2018-2019

As the student representative, I attended faculty meetings and disseminated information. I organized town hall events, designed and administered a survey on the graduate student curriculum, developed a student writing group, and advocated for student concerns.

EEB Program Mentorship Plan, 2019

As the EEB Graduate Student Representative I implemented a Mentoring Plan designed to clarify expectations/responsibilities between incoming students and their advisors. The Mentoring Plan is a survey-like document that the student and advisor complete together soon after the student arrives (answering questions like frequency of meetings, preferred communication, strengths and weaknesses, etc). The two revisit to the document in the student's second semester to assess and update their plan. This plan is also being used as a template for the UT CMB (Cell & Molecular Biology) Graduate Program.

EEB Graduate Program Course Offering Survey, 2019

I developed a survey taken by students across six cohorts of EEB Graduate Students that provided insight on which topics students feel need to be taught, are currently being taught, number and types of courses required for graduation, and prior training undertaken.

Graduate Student Panelist– First Year Subject and Skills Course, 2019

I presented with three other senior graduate students on topics including how to begin research projects, TA responsibilities, and on-campus resources for graduate students.

EEB Program Graduate Student Writing Group, 2019

I organized a weekly writing group for students in the graduate program.

Article Contributor– Chronicle of Higher Education, 2018

In late August 2018 I was interviewed and photographed by reporters for the Chronicle of Higher Education for a piece on efforts by the graduate students in the Integrative Biology Department at UT to improve cultural issues in the department and academia as a whole, specifically as it relates to addressing racial insensitivity and sexism.

Austin Science Advocates, 2017-present (<https://austinscienceadvocates.wordpress.com/>)

Austin Science Advocates promotes science communication and science policy awareness. I am on the planning team which organizes guest speaker events, skills workshops, and “contact your local representative” sessions.

LANGUAGES

English (*native*), Spanish (*basic competency*)

REFERENCES

Available upon request