

Matteo Rizzuto

POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE · SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT, YALE UNIVERSITY

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Education

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, BIOLOGY

Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador

2016–2021

St. John's, NL, Canada

- Thesis title: From elements to landscapes: the role of terrestrial consumers in ecosystem functioning
- Advisor: Dr. Shawn J. Leroux

MASTER OF RESEARCH (DISTINCTION), ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION, AND CONSERVATION

Imperial College London

2013–2014

London, UK

MASTER OF SCIENCE, EVOLUTION OF ANIMAL AND HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

University of Turin

2009–2012

Turin, Italy

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS), BIOLOGY

University of Turin

2004–2009

Turin, Italy

Research Appointments

POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE

Schmitz Lab, School of the Environment, Yale University

Present

New Haven, USA

- Developing new mathematical models to assess how animals influence carbon budgets and nutrient cycling in terrestrial ecosystems

VISITING ASSISTANT IN RESEARCH

Schmitz Lab, School of the Environment, Yale University

Feb.–Apr. 2019

New Haven, USA

- Developed a meta-ecosystem model capturing the effects of animal-mediated nutrient transport across ecosystem boundaries

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Pawar Lab, Department of Life Sciences, Imperial College London—Silwood Park

Jan.–Mar. 2016

Ascot, UK

- Collected and managed data for a meta-analysis of published studies of plant thermal responses

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Tsaobis Baboon Project, Zoological Society of London

Jun.–Oct. 2015

London, UK

- Field-based placement to collect behavioral, dietary, and population data from wild *Chacma* baboons in the Namib Desert

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Roe & Red Deer in Trentino and Technology Project, Fondazione Edmund Mach

Jun.–Sept. 2013

Trento, Italy

- Field-based placement to collect data on roe deer movement data, plant phenology, and pellet decay rate in the Eastern Alps

GRADUATE INTERN

Piedmont Wolf Project, Maritime Alps Nature Park

Jun.–Dec. 2011

Entracque (CN), Italy

- Designed and led a mixed laboratory and field-based study of wolves-chamois predator-prey interactions in the Western Alps

UNDERGRADUATE INTERN

Ethology Lab, University of Turin

2008–2009

Turin, Italy

- Bio-acoustic study of an individual's contribution to their family group song among *Indri* lemurs

Publications

Peer reviewed. [†] stands for equal contribution.

11. Heckford, T.R., Leroux, S.J., Vander Wal, E., [Rizzuto, M.](#), Balluffi-Fry, J., Richmond, I.C., Wiersma, Y.F. 2022. Ecoregion and community structure influences on the foliar elemental niche of balsam fir (*Abies balsamea* (L.) Mill.) and white birch (*Betula papyrifera* Marshall). *Ecology and Evolution* **12**, e9244.

10. Little, C.J.[†], [Rizzuto, M.[†]](#), Luhring, T.M., Monk, J.D., Nowicki, R.J., Paseka, R.E., Stegen, J.C., Symons, C.C., Taub, F.B., Yan, J.D.L. 2022. Movement with Meaning: Integrating Information into Meta-Ecology. *Oikos* **8**, e08892. **Editor's Choice**
9. Balluffi-Fry, J., Leroux, S.J., Wiersma, Y.F., Richmond, I.C., Heckford, T.R., [Rizzuto, M.](#), Kennah, J.L., Vander Wal, E. 2022. Integrating plant stoichiometry and feeding experiments: state-dependent forage choice and its implications on body mass. *Oecologia* **198**(3), 579–591.
8. Richmond, I.C., Balluffi-Fry, J., Vander Wal, E., Leroux, S.J., [Rizzuto, M.](#), Heckford, T.R., Kennah, J.L., Riefesel, G.R., Wiersma, Y.F. 2022. Individual snowshoe hares manage risk differently: integrating stoichiometric distribution models and foraging ecology. *Journal of Mammalogy* **103**(1), 196–208.
7. Heckford, T.R., Leroux, S.J., Vander Wal, E., [Rizzuto, M.](#), Balluffi-Fry, J., Richmond, I.C., Wiersma, Y.F. 2022. Spatially explicit correlates of plant functional traits inform landscape patterns of resource quality. *Landscape Ecology* **37**, 59–80.
6. [Rizzuto, M.](#), Leroux, S.J., Vander Wal, E., Richmond, I.C., Heckford, T.R., Balluffi-Fry, J., Wiersma, Y.F. 2021. Forage stoichiometry predicts the home range size of a small terrestrial herbivore. *Oecologia* **197**(2), 327–338. **Winner, Hanski Prize 2021**
5. Ellis-Soto, D.[†], Ferraro, K.M.[†], [Rizzuto, M.](#), Briggs, E., Monk, J.D., and Schmitz, O.J. 2021. A methodological roadmap to quantify animal-vectored spatial ecosystem subsidies. *Journal of Animal Ecology* **90**(7), 1605–1622. **Winner, Sidnie Manton Award 2021**
4. Richmond, I.C., Leroux, S.J., Vander Wal, E., Heckford, T.R., [Rizzuto, M.](#), Balluffi-Fry, J., Kennah, J., Wiersma, Y.F. 2021. Temporal variation and its drivers in the elemental traits of four boreal plant species. *Journal of Plant Ecology* **14**(3), 398–413.
3. Balluffi-Fry, J., Leroux, S.J., Wiersma, Y.F., Heckford, T.R., [Rizzuto, M.](#), Richmond, I.C., Vander Wal, E. 2020. Quantity-quality trade-offs revealed using a multiscale test of herbivore resource selection on elemental landscapes. *Ecology and Evolution* **10**(24), 13847–13859.
2. [Rizzuto, M.](#), Leroux, S.J., Vander Wal, E., Wiersma, Y.F., Heckford, T.R., Balluffi-Fry, J. 2019. Patterns and potential drivers of intraspecific variability in the body C, N, and P composition of a terrestrial vertebrate, the snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*). *Ecology and Evolution* **9**(24), 14453–14464.
1. [Rizzuto, M.](#), Carbone, C., and Pawar, S. 2018. Foraging constraints reverse the scaling of activity time in carnivores. *Nature Ecology and Evolution* **2**(2), 247–253. **Cover Story**

In progress

- [Rizzuto, M.](#), Leroux, S. J., Schmitz, O. J., Vander Wal, E., Wiersma, Y. F., Heckford, T. R. 2023. Animal-vectored nutrient flows across resource gradients influence the nature of local and meta-ecosystem functioning. In review, *Theoretical Ecology*, manuscript id: 42acf097-9459-4763-8814-0ef6c8a5c5d9. *bioRxiv preprint*.
- McLeod, A.M., Leroux, S.J., [Rizzuto, M.](#), Leibold, M.A., Schiesari, L. Integrating ecosystem and contaminant models to study the spatial dynamics of contaminants. In review, *Ecological Applications*, manuscript id: EAP23-0080.

Outreach

- Wiersma, Y.F., Catto, N., Deal, C., Edinger, E., Evans, R., Geissinger, E., Hearn, C., Sun Lim, K., McCann, N., MacDonald, K., Meyer, A., Prosser, J., Quinn, D., Richmond, I.C., [Rizzuto, M.](#), Roncal, J., Swain, M. 2020. The classroom goes virtual—experiences at Memorial University. *Blog post*.
- Cagnacci, F., Rocca, M., Nicoloso, S., Ossi, F., Peters, W., Mancinelli, S., Valent, M., [Rizzuto, M.](#), Hebblewhite, M. 2013. Il progetto 2C2T. *Il Cacciatore Trentino*, 93, 4–15.

Presentations

Conference Talks

- **Rizzuto, M.**, Leroux, S.J., Schmitz, O.J., Vander Wal, E., Wiersma, Y.F., Heckford, T.R. *Going against the flow: non-diffusive organismal movement influences local and meta-ecosystem functioning*. “Vital Connections in Ecology” Ecological Society of America Virtual Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, USA. 2–6 Aug. 2021
- **Rizzuto, M.**, Leroux, S.J., Vander Wal, E., Wiersma, Y.F., Heckford, T.R., Balluffi-Fry, J. *Ontogeny and Ecological Stoichiometry of Snowshoe hares (*Lepus americanus*) in the Boreal Forests of Newfoundland*. Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution Annual General Meeting, Guelph, ON, Canada. 18–21 Jul. 2018
- **Rizzuto, M.**, Carbone, C., and Pawar, S. *Bio-mechanical constraints on foraging reverse the scaling of activity rate among carnivores*. Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution Annual General Meeting, St. John’s, NL, Canada. 7–11 Jul. 2016

Conference Posters

- **Rizzuto, M.**, Leroux, S.J., Vander Wal, E., Wiersma, Y.F., Heckford, T.R., Balluffi-Fry, J. *Beyond Diffusion: Animal-Mediated Nutrient Transport at Different Spatial Scales*. “Unifying Ecology Across Scales” Gordon Research Seminar and Conference, Biddeford, ME, USA. 21–27 Jul. 2018

Workshops

- **Rizzuto, M.** *Grammar of Graphic: ggplot2*. Part of SPRY: A Learning Community for Quantitative Skill-Sharing Yale University School of the Environment. 4 Nov. 2022
- **Rizzuto, M.** *(R)markdown: a brief tour*. Part of SPRY: A Learning Community for Quantitative Skill-Sharing Yale University School of the Environment. 14 Oct. 2022

Outreach

- **Rizzuto, M.** *Skype-a-Scientist*, Hope Township Elementary School. 22 Mar. 2023

Honors & Awards

Note: *Memorial University* stands for Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Hanski Prize , Oecologia	2021
Awarded by the journal’s Editorial Board to the best student-authored paper in animal ecology	
Mitacs Research Training Award , Mitacs, St. John’s, Canada	2020
Awarded to graduate students to conduct research during the COVID-19 pandemic	
First Place–H5P Maker Session , Memorial University, St. John’s, Canada	2019
Awarded by the Centre for Innovation in Teaching & Learning to the creator of the best HTML5 interactive learning object	
Mitacs Globalink Research Award , Mitacs, St. John’s, Canada	2019
Awarded to senior graduate students to conduct research abroad	
Dean’s Doctoral Award , Memorial University, St. John’s, Canada	2016–2020
Awarded to Ph.D. students based on academic excellence and research potential	
Graduated with Distinction , Imperial College London, London, UK	2014
Awarded to the top 5% of all Master’s students in a cohort	
Erasmus-LLP Scholarship , University of Turin, Turin, Italy	2010
Awarded to students to take part in the Erasmus exchange program of the European Union	

Teaching

YALE UNIVERSITY
Guest Lecturer

2022
New Haven, USA

INDUSTRIAL ECOLOGY, Graduate course

Fall 2022

- Crafted and delivered a lecture weaving the concept of metabolism from ecology into urban ecology

MODELS IN BIOLOGY, Graduate and Undergraduate course

Winter 2020

- Designed and delivered lectures on classical models in Ecology, models of species interactions, and meta-ecology models

PRINCIPLES OF ECOLOGY, Undergraduate course

Fall 2018

- Managed the online learning portion of the course, provided administrative and academic support to students

PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY, Undergraduate course

Winter 2017

- Assisted during lab-based lectures, marked lab reports, midterms, and invigilated final exams

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

2014–2015

Teaching Assistant

London, UK

ECOLOGY, Undergraduate course

Spring 2015

- Demonstrator for the course's field trip, helped students design, collect data, and run analyses for their final projects

BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY, Undergraduate course

Winter 2015

- Assisted with lab-based lectures, from experiment setup to helping students with lab data analysis

INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL STATISTICS, Undergraduate course

Fall 2014

- Helped students learn base and advanced R language, facilitated Q&A sessions ahead of final exams

STATISTICS, Graduate course

Fall 2014

- Helped students in developing and coding statistical analyses in R

MACROECOLOGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE, Graduate course

Fall 2014

- Assisted students using the species distribution software Maxent

Service

Manuscript Reviewer *Biological Conservation, Science of the Total Environment, Ecology and Evolution*

Professional Development

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Courses

BECOMING A MORE EQUITABLE EDUCATOR: MINDSETS AND PRACTICES

Mar.–Jun. 2020

MIT Teaching Systems Lab

Attended online at edX.org**TEACHING SKILLS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

Sept. 2019–Aug. 2020

Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning

Memorial University

Workshops

REPRODUCIBLE RESEARCH THROUGH OPEN SCIENCE

11 Jun. 2020

Canadian Institute for Ecology and Evolution & NSERC-CREATE “Living Data Project”

Attended online at osf.io**TEACHING INCLUSIVELY & EQUITABLY ONLINE**

21 May 2020

American Society for Engineering Education & NSF INCLUDES Aspire Alliance

Attended online

H5P MAKER SESSION

24 Oct. 2019

Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning

Memorial University

COMMUNITY OF INQUIRY COFFEE BREAK: OPEN ACCESS

23 Oct. 2019

Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning

Memorial University

OPEN ACCESS AND SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING

22 Oct. 2019

Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning

Memorial University

FOUR THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING

8 Nov. 2018

Enhanced Development of the Graduate Experience

Memorial University

AARMS CRG SOFTWARE CARPENTRY WORKSHOP

27 May 2017

The Carpentries

Memorial University

Extracurricular Activity

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SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE CO-COORDINATOR

Present

Yale Postdoctoral Association

Yale University

- Co-coordinated the activities of the YPA Symposium Committee and organized the Annual Yale Postdoc Symposium
- Member of the Yale Postdoctoral Association Executive Board, participating in monthly meetings to steer the Association's activities

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE MEMBER

2022–2023

Yale Postdoctoral Association

Yale University

- Leader of the Scheduling subcommittee
- Developed the Symposium's schedule, planned and organized outreach and social activities, coordinated the search for the keynote speaker and panelists

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

2019–2020

Biology Graduate Student Association

Memorial University

- Managed the Association's weekly newsletter, website, event advertisement campaigns, and social media presence

CHAIRPERSON

2018–2019

Biology Graduate Student Association

Memorial University

- Coordinated the activities of the Executive Committee, focusing on fundraising, the welfare and mental health of graduate students, and community outreach
- Liaised with the Head of the Department of Biology to coordinate activities and events

SEMINAR CO-COORDINATOR

2017–2018

Biology Graduate Student Association

Memorial University

- One-third of the Seminar team, in charge of approaching, scheduling, and managing internal and visiting speakers for the weekly seminar series of the Biology Department

YOUTH EDUCATOR

2000–2013

Associazione O.A.S.I.—Operazione Mato Grosso di Torino

Turin, Italy

- Designed, scheduled, and run educational activities and community outreach events with and for children, teenagers, and young adults in Turin, Italy, and at the Hospital São Julião in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil

TEAM LEADER

2005–2006

XX Winter Olympic and IX Paralympic Games

Turin, Italy

- Led, scheduled, and supervised the daily activities of a ten-strong team of volunteers within the International Relations and Services Protocol Crew at the Ice Hockey, Curling, and Ceremonies Olympic venues

Professional Affiliations

ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

2021–2023

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

2016–2021

Conferences Attended

VITAL CONNECTIONS IN ECOLOGY

2–6 Aug. 2021

Ecological Society of America, Virtual Annual Meeting

Long Beach, CA, USA

UNIFYING ECOLOGY ACROSS SCALES

21–27 Jul. 2018

Gordon Research Seminar and Conference

Biddeford, ME, USA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

18–21 Jul. 2018

Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution

Guelph, ON, Canada

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7–11 Jul. 2016

Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution

St. John's, NL, Canada

FROM ENERGETICS TO MACRO ECOLOGY: CARNIVORE RESPONSES TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

14–15 Nov. 2013

Zoological Society of London

London, UK

ESOF—EUROSCIENCE OPEN FORUM

2–7 Jul. 2010

Euroscience

Turin, Italy

Skills

Programming R, Bash, Wolfram Mathematica, LaTeX, HTML
Software VCS (Git, GitHub), RStudio, Atom, Sublime Text, QGIS, Inkscape
Platform macOS, Windows
Languages Italian, English

Certificates

WILDERNESS AND REMOTE FIRST AID	2016–2019
Canadian Red Cross	St. John's, NL, Canada
WHMIS AND LAB SAFETY	2017
Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador	St. John's, NL, Canada
BASIC OUTDOOR FIRST AID	2014
Marlin Training Ltd.	London, UK
INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM	2013
British Council	Turin, Italy
Grade: 8.5	
INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER DRIVING LICENCE	2007
University of Turin	Turin, Italy

Interests

Hiking, Photography, Yoga, Watercolor painting