

# SIMEON QUIRINUS S M E E L E

## CONTACT INFO

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## ABOUT ME

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I'm a tenure track researcher at Ecoscience, Aarhus University. I work with deep neural networks to detect and classify bat species from audio and image data and use the results to model space use and migration. I'm looking to build a small research group to expand bat monitoring in Denmark and surrounding countries.

## EDUCATION

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<b>Dr. rer. nat.</b> <i>University of Konstanz</i>   Konstanz, Germany	2019-2023
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- Behavioural Ecology, *magna cum laude*
- Within and between species approaches to the study of communication and cognition in parrots
- Supervisors: Dr. Mary Brooke McElreath and Dr. Lucy Aplin

<b>Master of Biology</b> <i>University of Southern Denmark</i>   Odense, Denmark	2016-2018
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- Courses in behavior, bio-acoustics, terrestrial ecology, statistics, research projects, Matlab, sound and hearing, marine mammals, biodiversity.
- Thesis topic: "Pinniped cognition: the ability to recall own behaviour on cue"

<b>Bachelor of Biology (minor in Mathematics)</b> <i>University of Southern Denmark</i>   Odense, Denmark	2013-2016
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- Courses in zoology, botany, ecology, ecotoxicology, statistics and mathematics.
- Thesis topic: "Spatial memory in Daubenton's bats"

## EXPERIENCE

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<b>Tenure track researcher</b> <i>Wildlife Ecology, Ecoscience, Aarhus University</i>   Aarhus, Denmark	2025 - current
• Passive acoustic monitoring of bats • Camera trapping of bats • Population modelling of bats	
<b>Post doctoral researcher</b> <i>Wildlife Ecology, Ecoscience, Aarhus University</i>   Aarhus, Denmark	2023 - 2024
• Passive acoustic monitoring of bats • Camera trapping of bats	
<b>IMPRS doctoral researcher</b> <i>Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior and Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology</i>   Radolfzell, Germany	2019 - 2023
• Within and between species approaches to the study of communication and cognition in parrots • Supervisors: Dr. Mary Brooke McElreath and Dr. Lucy Aplin	
<b>Staff member</b> <i>Museum Haus Otto Dix</i>   Hemmenhofen, Germany	2022
• Helping visitors (in German) in the museum during weekends in the summer season	
<b>Research assistant</b> <i>University of Southern Denmark</i>   Odense, Denmark	2019
• Analysing large datasets on species demography and conservation • Supervisor: Professor Dalia Amor Conde	
<b>Study group supervisor</b> <i>University of Southern Denmark</i>   Odense, Denmark	2015-2017
• Helping first year Natural Science students work in groups on biology and mathematics projects	
<b>Teaching assistant</b> <i>University of Southern Denmark</i>   Odense, Denmark	2014-2015
• Teaching first year Natural Science students in the general biology course	

## VOLUNTEERING

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<b>Volunteer</b> <i>Save the Children</i>   Aarhus, Denmark	2023 - current
• Co-management volunteer group • Registering participation • Cooking food with Ukrainian children and their parents	

**Research assistant (internship)** 2018 - 2019

*University of Southern Denmark and Fuglezoo | Odense, Denmark*

- Co-supervising master student working on cooperative and vocal behaviour in parakeets
- Supervisor: Professor Ole Næsby

**Animal trainer** 2017 - 2018

*Marine Biological Research Centre | Kerteminde, Denmark*

- Training grey seals, great cormorants and common murres
- Assisting with data collection for psychophysics, conservation and cognition
- Supervisor: Dr. Kirstin Anderson Hansen

**Trainer and member general board** 2014 - 2018

*Odense SportsKlatreKlub (climbing gym) | Odense, Denmark*

- Training the youth elite team, adult advanced team and schools
- Moving the club to new facilities and setting up the new management structure

**Field assistant** 2014

*University of Southern Denmark | Odense, Denmark*

- Collecting data from tit nest boxes
- Conducting observational study of great tit foraging behaviour
- Supervisor: Prof. Owen Jones

## TEACHING

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**Biology field course** 2021

*Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior | Radolfzell, Germany*

- I gave a lecture on bio-acoustics and co-supervised a group of master students working on local dialects and aggression in great tits

**General introduction biology** 2014-2015

*University of Southern Denmark | Odense, Denmark*

- I worked as a teaching assistant during the biology part of a larger course that introduced natural science students to different subjects in the wider field
- I had the responsibility for groups of 20-30 students that worked on exercises and presented the solutions

## ACHIEVEMENTS

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### Grants

- 2026 Co-applicant HORIZON EU (€ 10,997,000)
- 2025 ÅV Jensen Nature Foundation (€ 335,000)
- 2025 Research Reserve Grant, AU (€ 40,000)
- 2022 Small Cluster Grant, CASCB (€ 10,000)
- 2021 Small Cluster Grant, CASCB (€ 10,000)

## ACTIVITIES

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### Peer reviews

- 2025 Royal Society Interface, Methods in Ecology and Evolution, Methods in Ecology and Evolution
- 2024 Ethology, Ethology, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Journal of Ornithology, Bioacoustics, Royal Society Open Science, Royal Society Open Science
- 2023 Methods in Ecology and Evolution
- 2022 PLOS Computational Biology, Scientific Reports, Ethology, Ethology, Scientific Reports
- 2021 Ecology and Evolution

### Organisation

- 2021-current Preprint Team Member, Proceedings of the Royal Society
- 2021-2023 member Sustainability Group MPI-AB
- 2021 co-host Virtual ESLR Workshop (GatherTown)
- 2021 co-host Virtual IMPRS Grand Challenges Symposium (Zoom)
- 2020-2022 external PhD representative Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior

## PUBLICATIONS

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### 2025

- **Smeele, S. Q.**, , Senar, J. C., McElreath, M. B., & Aplin, L. M. (2025). **The effect of social structure on vocal flexibility in monk parakeets**. R. Soc. open sci. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.241717>
- Staerk, Johanna, Dalia A. Conde, Morgane Tidière, Jean-François Lemaître, András Liker, Balázs Vági, Samuel Pavard, Mathieu Giraudeau, **Simeon Q. Smeele**, Orsolya Vincze, Victor Ronget, Rita da Silva, Zjef Pereboom, Mads F. Bertelsen, Jean-Michel Gaillard, Tamás Székely, and Fernando Colchero, **Sexual selection drives sex difference in adult life expectancy across mammals and birds**. Sci. Adv.11, eady8433 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.ady8433>
- Keck, Sarah M., Alex Barnhill, **Simeon Quirinus Smeele**, Maxine Hsu, Ailin Dolson-Fazio, Christian Bergler, Gregory F. Ball, Cara A. Krieg, and Karan J. Odom. (2025). **Deep machine learning allows classification of male and female songbird songs in a species with highly variable repertoires**. Behaviour, 1(aop), 1-35. <https://doi.org/10.1163/1568539X-bja10324>

## 2024

- preprint Ortiz, S.T., **Smeele, S.Q.**, Osvath, M., Guerrero, A.M., Sanchez, A.H., Ramirez, C.U., Almunia, J. and von Bayern, A.M.P. (2024). **Awareness of the future: Dolphins know when they need to remember for the future.** bioRxiv, 2024-11. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.11.28.625857>
- preprint Krasheninnikova, A., **Smeele, S.Q.**, Snijders, M., Haldar, E., Carpenter, J., Zamora, R., Naguib, M., Wolf, J. B., Gahr, M. and von Bayern, A. M. (2024). **Evolution of vocal production learning in parrots.** bioRxiv, 2024-11. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.11.05.622162>
- **Smeele, S. Q.\***, Tyndel, S. A.\*., Klump, B. C., Alarcon-Nieto, G. & Aplin, L. M. (2024). **callsync: An R package for alignment and analysis of multi-microphone animal recordings.** Ecology and Evolution, 14, e11384. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.11384> [\* co-first author]
- **Smeele, S. Q.\***, Tyndel, S. A.\*., Aplin, L. A. & McElreath, M. B. (2024). **Multilevel Bayesian analysis of monk parakeet contact calls shows dialects between European cities.** Behavioral Ecology, Volume 35, Issue 1, January/February 2024, arad093, <https://doi.org/10.1093/beheco/arad093> [\* co-first author]

## 2023

- **Smeele, S. Q.**, Senar, J. C., Aplin, L. A. & McElreath, M. B. (2023). **Evidence for vocal signatures and voiceprints in a wild parrot.** R. Soc. open sci. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.230835>
- Mooney, A., Teare, J. A., Staerk, J., **Smeele, S. Q.**, Rose, P., Edell, R. H., King, C. E., Conrad, L., & Buckley, Y. M. (2023). **Flock size and structure influence reproductive success in four species of flamingo in 540 captive populations worldwide.** Zoo Biology, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1002/zoo.21753>

## 2022

- **Smeele, S. Q.**, Conde, D. A., Baudisch, A., Bruslund, S., Iwaniuk, A., Staerk, J., Wright, T. F., Young, A. M., McElreath, M. B. & Aplin, L. M. (2022). **Coevolution of relative brain size and life expectancy in parrots.** Proceedings of the Royal Society B, 289(1971), 20212397. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2021.2397>
- **Smeele, S. Q.** (2022). **Using relative brain size as predictor variable: Serious pitfalls and solutions.** Ecology and Evolution, 12, e9273. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.9273>
- Bergler, C., **Smeele, S.Q.**, S.A., Barnhill, A., Ortiz, S.T., Kalan, A.K., Cheng, R.X., Brinkløv, S., Osiecka, A.N., Tougaard, J. and Jakobsen, F. (2022) **ANIMAL-SPOT enables animal-independent signal detection and classification using deep learning.** Sci Rep 12, 21966. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-26429-y>
- Torres Ortiz, S., **Smeele, S.Q.**, Champenois, J. & von Bayeren A. M. P. (2022). **Memory for own actions in parrots.** Sci Rep 12, 20561. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-25199-x>

## 2021

- Cantor, M.\*., Chimento, M.\*., **Smeele, S. Q.\***, He, P., Papageorgiou, D., Aplin, L. M., & Farine, D. R. (2021). **Social network architecture and the tempo of cumulative cultural evolution.** Proceedings of the Royal Society B, 288(1946), 20203107. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2020.3107> [\* co-first author]

## 2020

- Nielsen, R. O., da Silva, R., Juergens, J., Staerk, J., Sørensen, L. L., Jackson, J., **Smeele, S. Q.**, & Conde, D. A. (2020). **Standardized data to support conservation prioritization for sharks and batoids (Elasmobranchii)**. Data in brief, 33, 106337. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2020.106337>
- Bergler, C., Schmitt, M., Maier, A., **Smeele, S.**, Barth, V., & Nöth, E. (2020). **ORCA-CLEAN: A Deep Denoising Toolkit for Killer Whale Communication**. In INTERSPEECH (pp. 1136-1140). <http://dx.doi.org/10.21437/Interspeech.2020-1316>

## 2019

- **Smeele, S. Q.**, Anderson Hansen, K., Ortiz, S. T., Johansson, F., Kristensen, J. H., Larsson, J., Siebert, U. & Wahlberg, M. (2019). **Memory for own behaviour in pinnipeds**. Animal cognition, 22(6), 947-958. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10071-019-01286-x>

## REPORTS

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### 2026

- **Smeele, S. Q.**, Grethen, K. J., Brinkløv, S. M. M., Fjederholt, E. T., & Elmeros, M. (2026). **Modelling offshore bat activity over danish waters**, Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy. [https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Videnskabelige\\_rapporter\\_600-699/SR691.pdf](https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Videnskabelige_rapporter_600-699/SR691.pdf)

### 2025

- Brinkløv, S. M. M., **Smeele, S. Q.**, Uebel, A. S., Grethen, K. J., Fjederholt, E. T., & Elmeros, M. (2025). **Baseline surveys of Birds, Bats and Marine Mammals in areas for Offshore Wind Farms in the Danish North Sea (North Sea I): Bats-Baseline surveys 2023-2025 North Sea I**, Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy. 66 p. [https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Eksterne\\_udgivelser/2025/NSI\\_WPC\\_BATS\\_TR\\_Y2\\_2025\\_101025-4.pdf](https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Eksterne_udgivelser/2025/NSI_WPC_BATS_TR_Y2_2025_101025-4.pdf)
- Nielsen, L. T., Brinkløv, S. M. M., Elmeros, M., Galatius, A., Grønkjær, P., Hansen, J. W., Hansen, J. L. S., Koziol, A. L., Larsen, M. M., Lønborg, C., Mohn, C., Petersen, I. K., **Smeele, S. Q.**, Strand, J., Stæhr, P. A., Sveegaard, S., Teilmann, J. & Tougaard, J. (2025). **Review af datablade for effektovervågning i danske havvindmølleparker**, Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy. 39 p. [https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Notater\\_2025/N2025\\_29.pdf](https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Notater_2025/N2025_29.pdf)

### 2024

- Brinkløv, S.M.M., **Smeele, S.Q.**, Uebel, A.S., Fjederholt, E.T. & Elmeros, M. (2024). **Bats surveys - pre-investigations for offshore wind farms in the area North Sea I**. Energinet Eltransmission A/S. [https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Eksterne\\_udgivelser/2024/Bat\\_surveys.pdf](https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Eksterne_udgivelser/2024/Bat_surveys.pdf)
- Brinkløv, S.M.M., **Smeele, S.Q.**, Fjederholt, E.T., Skalshøi, M.R., Elmeros, M. (2024). **Bestandsovervågning af flagermusarter i Mønsted Kalkgruber med fotofælder og citizen science**. Aarhus Universitet, DCE - Nationalt Center for Miljø og Energi, 27 s. - Videnskabelig rapport nr. 604. [https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Videnskabelige\\_rapporter\\_600-699/SR604.pdf](https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Videnskabelige_rapporter_600-699/SR604.pdf)

## CONFERENCES

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<b>IBAC</b>	<b>2025</b>
<i>University of Southern Denmark, Kerteminde</i>	
• Talk: 'Quantification of bat offshore activity above the North Sea'	
<b>Oikos</b>	<b>2025</b>
<i>Innovate - Aalborg University</i>	
• Talk: 'Using Neural Networks for Continuous Monitoring of Bat Populations in Mønsted Kalkgruber'	
<b>IBAC AI in Bioacoustics</b>	<b>2024</b>
<i>Copenhagen University, Denmark (online)</i>	
• Talk: 'Passive acoustic monitoring of bats above the Danish North Sea using deep learning'	
<b>Active Sension Seminar</b>	<b>2024</b>
<i>Aarhus University, Denmark</i>	
• Talk: 'Animal Spot, a convolutional neural network to detect bat calls and classify genus/species'	
<b>Vocal Complexity and Social Learning Workshop</b>	<b>2023</b>
<i>Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology, Germany</i>	
• Talk: 'Vocal flexibility in monk parakeets'	
<b>CES Hybrid Conference</b>	<b>2022</b>
<i>Aarhus University, Denmark (online)</i>	
• Talk: 'Monk parakeets exhibit individual vocal signatures and population-level dialects in their vocalisations'	
<b>ASAB Easter Virtual Meeting</b>	<b>2021</b>
<i>University of Bristol, UK (online)</i>	
• Talk: 'Brainy lives: do larger brained parrots live longer?'	

## SKILLS

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● ● ●	R, driving licence, GitHub, acoustic analysis, first aid, sea survival, elementary fire
● ● ○	L <small>A</small> T <small>E</small> X, Python, Bayesian statistics, teaching and supervision, international collaborations, field work
● ○ ○	Matlab, Bash, Git
<b>Languages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English (fluent)</li><li>• Danish (fluent)</li><li>• Dutch (fluent)</li><li>• German (intermediate)</li></ul>

## REFERENCES

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<b>Morten Elmers</b>	Senior Advisor Department of Ecoscience Aarhus University +45 87 15 89 16 elm@ecos.au.dk
<b>Prof. Lucy M. Aplin</b>	Group Leader Research School of Biology Australian National University +61 2 6125 7714 lucy.aplin@anu.edu.au
<b>Dr. Mary Brooke McElreath</b>	Research Scientist Department of Human Behavior, Ecology and Culture Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology +49 341 3550 330 mary_mcelreath@eva.mpg.de

## PERSONAL

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<b>Date of Birth</b>	02-08-1992
<b>Place of Birth</b>	Assen, The Netherlands
<b>Nationality</b>	Dutch
<b>Location</b>	Aarhus, Denmark