**ABOUT US**

**History of the project**

It all started in Hannover in November 2013 at the occasion of a workshop on personality organised by Susanne Foitzik, Franjo Weissing, and Niels Dingemanse and funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. During this workshop, a group of researchers discussed the potential issues related to sampling designs on the estimation of components of the phenotypic variance and covariance. It became obvious that there was an urgent need to develop a simulation package to help anyone interested in using a mixed model approach at getting familiar with this methods and avoiding the pitfalls related to the interpretation of the results. A first model and a working version of the package were created in January 2014, during a meeting at Université du Québec à Montréal. The current version was produced during a workshop in November 2014, at the Max Plank Institute for Ornithology in Seewiesen.

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