



NEWSLETTER

Dec 2017



[NEWS](#) | [CONGRESS](#) | [JOURNALS](#) | [INITIATIVES](#)

NEWS

ESEB Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the ESEB newsletter, an initiative adopted in response to requests from many of its members to be kept updated about the Society's activities. In the first instance, the newsletter will be circulated a couple of times a year, with the aim of highlighting ESEB initiatives, drawing attention to opportunities for funding and their application deadlines, and bringing news to their attention.

New ESEB President, Secretary and JEB Editor-in-Chief

In August, Nina Wedell (University of Exeter) took over as President of ESEB from Laurent Keller (University of Lausanne), John Pannell (University of Lausanne) took over as Secretary from Hinrich Schulenberg (Kiel University), and Wolf Blanckenhorn (University of Zurich) replaced Mike Ritchie (University of St. Andrews) as Editor-in-Chief of the society's flagship journal, *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*. Together with Jacintha Ellers (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), who continues as Vice-President (effectively our treasurer), they form the ESEB Executive Committee. ESEB is also served by 19 members of its Council, who advise the Executive Committee and represent the Society in deciding on much of its on-going business. Ute Friedrich Moniatte continues as ESEB Office Manager, located in Nürnberg.

Distinguished Fellow of ESEB – Isabelle Olivieri

ESEB members voted in Groningen in August to name, posthumously, Isabelle Olivieri as a new [Distinguished Fellow](#) of the society. Isabelle made seminal contributions to the study of dispersal, life-history evolution and metapopulations, and forged links between ecology, evolutionary biology and conservation. She made important contributions to ESEB, which was close to her heart: she served as Vice-President of ESEB in 1995, as President in 2007-2009, as well as on various ESEB committees. She was also Vice-President of SSE in 2007 and pushed for the organization of joint meetings while she was President of ESEB. Isabelle was a recipient of the prestigious Descartes-Huygens Prize, which allowed her to establish strong links with Dutch scientists. She contributed to European science in many other ways, not least through her service for the ERC, on which she chaired a panel for several years.

ESEB and Equal Opportunities

Hannah Dugdale & Julia Schroeder, ESEB EO committee chairs

The ESEB Equal Opportunities (EO) committee provides “Best Practice Guidelines” for all ESEB activities, gives grants through the “EO Initiative” and “Congress Attendance Aid” schemes (see below), and monitors the status and progress of underrepresented groups in our society and field. So far, it has funded projects for workshops on gender awareness and self-defence during fieldwork, data collation and analyses of biases in the field of evolutionary biology, podium discussions and various other initiatives (for details and further examples, see [ESEB homepage](#)).

Since its inception, the EO committee has made a concerted effort to remove gender bias during ESEB congresses, focusing in particular on the under-representation of female invited speakers (Schroeder et al 2013). Attention to this issue seems to have helped. At ESEB meetings in 2017 and 2015, when best practices were implemented to avoid gender bias, 40% and 41% of invited speakers were female, respectively, values that reflect proportions in baseline populations - and up from 17% at ESEB meetings between 2001 and 2013 before best practises were implemented.

In a survey of ESEB 2017 attendees, we found that 28% of post-docs and 60% of PhD students with caring responsibilities had no funding to attend the meeting. So we encourage PhD students and post-docs with caring responsibilities to apply for a Congress Attendance Grant for future ESEB Congresses; please bring this call to the attention of those who might benefit.

Reference

Schroeder J, Dugdale HL, Radersma R et al. (2013) Fewer invited talks by women in evolutionary biology symposia. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, 26, 2063-2069.

EMPSEB 2017

Marta Niedzicka, EMPSEB 23 organizer

If you are a PhD student thinking about your first scientific conference, the European Meeting of PhD students in Evolutionary Biology (EMPSEB) is for you. EMPSEB is a gathering dedicated to scholars starting their career in evolutionary biology in Europe, specifically PhD students, with the aim of fostering the exchange of ideas and research results, and of improving presentation skills. Senior researchers from different evolutionary fields participate and provide support and feedback. This year's meeting was held in Krasiczyn Castle, Poland, with contributions from students and the following Virpi Lummaa, Deborah Charlesworth, Jessica Purcell, Tadeusz Kawecki, Aris Katzourakis, Shinichi Nakagawa, Jacek Radwan and Øystein Varpe.

CONGRESS

Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology in Montpellier, August 2018

Preparations are at an advanced stage for the next Society conference, the Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology, to be held in Montpellier, France, from 19 to 22 August 2018. There will be 78 exciting symposia; don't miss the **15th January deadline** for the submission of abstracts for these symposia! Information can be found at the Conference website: <http://evolutionmontpellier2018.org>

ESEB'S JOURNALS

Journal of Evolutionary Biology

The society's flagship journal, *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* (*JEB*) has a new editor-in-chief. Wolf Blanckenhorn (University of Zurich) took over from Mike Ritchie (St. Andrews) in August. He is supported by the journal's assistant Lianne Baker at St. Andrews and eleven Deciding Editors, who remain largely unchanged through the transition – except that Luke Holman (Canberra) has taken over from Hanna Kokko (Zurich) as Reviews Editor. *JEB* is also currently expanding its board of Reviewing Editors.

With the scientific publication business in a state of transition into the era of open access web publishing, several changes are being implemented in *JEB*'s submission and publication process, including a "fast-track" submission possibility and new instructions for authors regarding data and methods transparency.

Evolution Letters

The new journal *Evolution Letters* (*EL*) was launched earlier this year. *EL* is jointly owned by ESEB and our North American sister society, the Society for Study of Evolution (SSE), and serves as an umbrella for both societies and their respective society journals, *JEB* and *Evolution*, to publish open-access online papers of cutting-edge research, as well as comments and opinion articles. Jon Slate (Sheffield) is the journals first Editor-in-Chief.

ESEB INITIATIVES

ESEB Progress Meetings in Evolutionary Biology

Deadline: Dec 12, 2017

Our most recent initiative supporting short meetings on focused topics in the field of evolutionary biology with the objective to produce either a Special Issue or Target Review for the *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*. More information:

[Go to website](#)

ESEB Godfrey Hewitt Mobility Award

Deadline: Jan 15, 2018

The mobility award intends to support the career of a PhD student or postdoctoral fellow by sponsoring fieldwork or lab visits. Proposals of new ventures apart of the regular research topic are preferred. Follow this link for more detailed information:

[Go to website](#)

ESEB John Maynard Smith Prize

Deadline: Jan 15, 2018

The JMS Prize is awarded annually to an outstanding young evolutionary biologist in the field of evolutionary biology and related. Nominations and self-nominations are accepted. Follow this link for more detailed information:

[Go to website](#)

ESEB Conference Attendance Aid Grant

Deadline: Feb 16, 2018

In 2018, the conference attendance aid grants are for scientists who wish to attend the Joint Evolution congress in Montpellier, France. Follow this link for more detailed information:

[Go to website](#)

ESEB Outreach Initiative Funds

Deadline: Mar 15, 2018

Would you like to spread your knowledge on evolutionary biology generally? Apply for an ESEB outreach initiative fund to support your public event, your YouTube video, your book for children, or the translation of "[Evolution Matters](#)" into your native language! Please follow this link for more detailed information:

[Go to website](#)

ESEB EO Initiative Funds

Deadline: Mar 31, 2018

The Equal Opportunities Initiative funds are available to support activities that increase awareness of the issue and possible solutions. Projects may include, but not limited to, short workshops, data collection, and publication activities. Read more about the application procedure and current funded projects at the EO Initiative website:

[Go to website](#)

ESEB Special Topic Networks

Next deadline to be announced in fall 2018

Small meetings or other networking opportunities in focused and currently active research areas are supported through the Special Topic Networks Initiative. Follow this link for more detailed information:

[Go to website](#)

ESEB
European Society for Evolutionary Biology
www.eseb.org

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