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NEWSLETTER

December 2019



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NEWS

2019 draws to a close ...

As will be evident again from the ESEB activities and Initiatives listed below, 2019 has been a busy year for the Society, with its high point being the ESEB Congress held in Turku, Finland. A big thanks from our Society to Craig Primmer and his team for a wonderful meeting! 2020 is an off-year for ESEB: although its activities continue unabated, there is no Congress. Our next meeting will be in 2021 in Prague, the Czech Republic. As is the norm, the ESEB Congress this year also saw a turnover of Society Officers. Nina Wedell from Exeter, UK, passed the Presidency to Ophélie Ronce from Montpellier, France, and Anna-Liisa Laine, now in Zurich, Switzerland, has been replaced by Sara Magalhães from Portugal as our Vice President. Koen Verhoeven is our new Executive Vice President (EVP, our treasurer), taking over from Jacintha Ellers. (It is no coincidence that both are from the Netherlands; ESEB is registered in the Netherlands, which effectively requires a Dutch EVP). We thank Nina, Anna-Liisa and Jacintha for all the work they did in running the Society, particularly Jacintha who invested a great deal of time and dedication in managing our finances over four years. ESEB continues to benefit from the hard work and oversight of Ute Moniatte, our office manager.

A decision was taken at the ESEB Executive and Council meetings at Turku to promote greater turnover in the committees that run ESEB's Initiatives. ESEB members keen to play a greater role in their Society and inspired by the missions of a particular Initiative should get in touch with us (either the current Initiative chair, or John Pannell, the current ESEB secretary. We are particularly keen to attract people with an interest and perhaps some experience in policy matters to help launch an ESEB Policy Committee! Please contact us if you are interested and could spare some time to bring evolutionary matters to the attention of our policy-makers.

A particularly happy moment this year was the election at the ESEB Members' meeting on the last day of the Turku Congress of a new Distinguished Fellow to the Society. Roger Butlin, from Sheffield in the UK, joins a small handful of other names as holder of ESEB's highest honour. Distinguished Fellowships are conferred on ESEB members that combine outstanding science with outstanding service to the Society and to the wider world of evolutionary biology. Congratulations Roger! And many thanks for your ongoing service to our community.

Finally, we congratulate Ophélie Ronce, our new President, for her election as the non-American Vice President of the Society for the Study of Evolution, SSE, our North American sister society. Quite apart from this badge of recognition, we anticipate that Ophélie's holding office in the executive bodies of both evolution societies concurrently will open up new channels of collaboration between them.

John Pannell, ESEB Secretary

ESEB Membership

After many years of waiting, we have finally been able to implement the possibility of lifetime ESEB membership, in addition to full and student membership categories.

ESEB membership fees in 2020

Members based in Europe, excluding VAT

Member, 2-year, JEB online access: € 54

PhD Student Member, 2-year, JEB online access: € 36

Lifetime Member, JEB online access: € 540
(corresponding to 20 years of regular membership)

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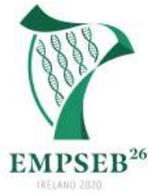
ESEB Membership Discounts

Are you still aware of the discounts from which you might benefit as an ESEB member?

- 50% discount on the Open Access publication fee of our Society's *Journal of Evolutionary Biology (JEB)*. Visit the [JEB website](#) to find out more.
- 28% discount on the article publication charge for *Evolution Letters*. Visit the [Evolution Letters website](#) to find out more.
- 20% discount on the article publication charge for *Evolutionary Applications* (direct submissions). Visit the [Evolutionary Applications website](#) to find out more.
- 10% discount on the article publication charge for *Ecology and Evolution* (direct submissions).
- 25% discount on all books published by Wiley-Blackwell.
- 20% discount on Ecology & Evolution books from Oxford University Press.
- Reduced subscription fees for selected Wiley journals such as *Acta Zoologica*, *Molecular Ecology and Molecular Ecology Resources*, *New Phytologist*, and *Zoologica Scripta*.

Detailed information on how to get these discounts is available at the ESEB website eseb.org/society/discounts/

EMPSEB 2020



The next European Meeting of PhD Students in Evolutionary Biology (EMPSEB) will be held in Ireland, from 19-24 April 2020 at the Muckross Park Hotel.

Abstract submission now open until 24 Jan 2020!

More details will be available at <https://sites.google.com/view/empseb26/> or follow us on Twitter [@Empseb26](https://twitter.com/Empseb26)

ESEB - EvoKE Partnership



EvoKE means Evolutionary Knowledge for Everyone. EvoKE is an international network and a registered NGO, aiming to build a collaborative, diverse, and dynamic network of people interested in promoting a greater scientific literacy in evolution. Current members of EvoKE already include evolutionary biologists, education researchers, teachers, journalists, museum professionals, science communicators, artists, designers and citizen science organisations. Thanks to the work of many active members, two successful EvoKE meetings and EvoKE's presence at the ESEB 2019 congress we were able to establish a rich and dynamic community, devoted to its mission.

If you would like to know more about EvoKE and get involved please visit EvoKE's webpage: evokeproject.org. There, you will find relevant information about EvoKE's mission and values, recent projects and activities, and detailed information about contributing to specific EvoKE task-forces (<https://evokeproject.org/get-involved>).

Szymek Drobnik, EvoKE member

CONGRESSES

Evolution Congress 2020

EVOLUTION 2020

JUNE 19-23 | CLEVELAND, OHIO, USA



We are excited to announce that the joint conference of the ASN, SSB, and SSB will be held in Cleveland, OH, USA from June 19-23. This meeting is an excellent opportunity for sharing research on evolutionary biology. We anticipate 1800 - 2000 attendees, 1,000+ talks, and 400+ posters. We are continuing to promote diversity and inclusiveness by offering social and networking opportunities for focal groups and by offering free childcare during the conference. This year we are offering a new program "Science Knows No Borders" that provides special accommodation for international participants encountering visa difficulties.

Social activities will include an opening reception and SSE Public outreach lecture, mixers during each of three evening poster sessions, and a Super Social at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

For more information visit <https://www.evolutionmeetings.org/>

ESEB Congress 2021



The next ESEB congress will take place in 2021 in Prague, Czech Republic, from August 22 to 27, organized by Lukáš Kratochvíl.

Visit the ESEB 2021 congress website at <https://www.eseb2021.cz/> for further details.

ESEB Congress 2023

We are excited to report that the 2023 ESEB congress will be held in Barcelona, Spain. More details will be available in due course at the ESEB website.

Bids for Future ESEB Congresses

ESEB welcomes proposals for future ESEB congresses from 2025 on. Proposals must be made by scientist (as the main organizer) working in evolutionary biology, with support from the local scientific community. Bids solely submitted by professional-event organizations will not be considered. Written proposals for the 2025 congress will be accepted until mid-July 2021 and should contain the preliminary budget as well as detailed information about the venue. The proposals should be sent by email to the ESEB office (office@eseb.org). For further information, please contact the ESEB Secretary, John Pannell (john.pannell@unil.ch).

ESEB'S JOURNALS

Journal of Evolutionary Biology

Written by Wolf Blanckenhorn, JEB Editor-in-Chief

In this era of massive changes in the scientific publishing landscape in connection with internet publishing and the Open Access movement, the Journal of Evolutionary Biology (JEB) continues to review and publish high-quality papers covering essentially all aspects of evolutionary biology, and all organisms. As many new alternatives to publish scientific work are now available, the number of submitted – and accepted – papers is still declining, whereas our acceptance criteria and rates remain largely stable. As many traditional journals experience this decline, it ultimately may be a symptom of changing scientific scope, topics and methods. We continue to broaden JEBs scope to address evolutionary biologists world-wide, not just Europe.

Three Deciding Editors (DE) of JEB completed their 4- to 6-year terms in 2019, coincidentally all from France: Christoph Haag and Frederic Méry of the CNRS, and Emmanuelle Porcher of the Natural History Museum in Paris. At the same time, we have managed to attract the same number of new DEs for JEB, all to start in the new year 2020: Louise Johnson of the University of Reading, England; Mark Ravinet of the Center for Ecological and Evolutionary Synthesis in Oslo, Norway (however soon to move to Nottingham University in England); and Yuval Sapir of the Botanical Garden and Natural History Museum of Tel Aviv University, Israel. Welcome all! And a big thank-you to the retiring DEs for their marvelous service for the journal over the past few years.

A number of recent changes have been implemented by us and Wiley-Blackwell, our publisher, to smooth the editorial process. Among these are a new journal web design, a new Forum section for papers on science practice and policy that should be of interest for the community of evolutionary biologists, graphical abstracts for better promotion of JEB papers, the consideration of “fast-track” manuscripts previously reviewed elsewhere, or looser formatting specifications at initial review. JEB now specifically invites researchers to suggest and organize special issues on current evolutionary topics, not necessarily restricted but possibly related to symposia run at our ESEB conferences.

Wolf Blanckenhorn, JEB Editor-in-Chief

Evolution Letters

Evolution Letters continues to go from strength-to-strength. Submissions and accepted articles are up on 2018, which goes against the trend seen in evolutionary and ecological journals overall. We are very excited that the journal will receive its first impact factor next year - the 2019 IFs are due in June 2020. There have been some changes to our editorial board. Anjali Goswami, who was part of the journal from its beginning has recently stepped down, and we thank her for all of her diligent and insightful work. We welcome Abderrahman Khila (IGFL, Lyon) to the team; Abdou specialises in developmental and evolutionary genetics.

A reminder that all of our articles are covered on Twitter (@EvoLetters) and our blog (<https://evolutionletters.wordpress.com/>).

Jon Slate, Evolution Letters Editor-in-Chief

ESEB INITIATIVES

ESEB Godfrey Hewitt Mobility Award

Next deadline January 17, 2020

This ESEB award is in memory of past president Godfrey Hewitt. It aims to help early

career researchers, who lack funding opportunities from other sources, to complete fieldwork or a period of research at a laboratory that they have not previously visited. The priority is to help researchers explore and establish new research projects to widen their experience, so embellishment of a current project is not encouraged. We seek projects that are based on the applicant's own initiative, are likely to be completed within the award period and most importantly, have the potential to lead to future projects and enhance the applicant's career in evolutionary biology. Full application details, past awards, and information about Godfrey Hewitt, are available on the website <https://eseb.org/prizes-funding/godfrey-hewitt-mobility-award/>



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ESEB John Maynard Smith Prize 2020

Next deadline January 17, 2020

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

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ESEB Conference Travel Award

Next deadline March 15, 2020

In 2020, the travel stipends will be for young scientists based in countries with a low GDP wishing to attend the Evolution meeting of ASN, SSB, and SSE in Cleveland, OH, USA. Follow this link for more detailed information:

[Go to website](#)

ESEB Outreach Initiative Funds

Next deadline March 15, 2020

The ESEB outreach initiative has recently funded a variety of evolution-related activities, including lectures and workshops, recreational activities to celebrate Darwin's Day (Dia do Darwin), and hands-on opportunities to find out how extinct animals and plants survived in

the now frozen continent Antarctica (Bringing The Evolution Of Antarctica To Life). In 2020, we will continue to fund initiatives that aim at improving public knowledge of evolution globally. There will be a single call with the same total annual budget (20,000 €), but with the possibility to increase the budget of individual projects to 4,000 €. Projects with smaller budgets are welcome.

To learn more about past initiatives, to see the current members of the ESEB outreach initiative committee, and for details on how to apply for the 2020 call, please visit our website at <https://eseb.org/prizes-funding/outreach-fund/>.

Josefa Gonzalez, Chair Outreach Initiative

[Go to website](https://eseb.org/prizes-funding/outreach-fund/)

ESEB and Equal Opportunities

ESEB is committed to ensuring Equal Opportunities (EO) in all its activities. To this end, the ESEB EO committee provides “Best Practice Guidelines” for all ESEB activities that help to ensure equal opportunities in workshops, congresses, and publishing activities. The EO committee also provides grants through the “EO Initiative” and “Congress Attendance Aid” schemes (more information below). Finally, the EO committee monitors the status and progress of underrepresented groups in our society and the broader field of evolutionary biology.

The EO Initiative Grant funds activities that increase awareness of unequal opportunities and promote possible solutions. ESEB has funded 3 out of 5 submitted projects in the last two years (2 applications were not eligible). These included: a symposium to raise awareness of the attrition of diversity from post-doc to faculty levels; a workshop on sex differences in scientific studies; and data collation and analyses of biases in the peer-review process. Information on these, and other applications that were funded in earlier years, can be found on the ESEB homepage. For example, completed initiatives include: analysis of the implementation of EO guidelines and accounting for gender when choosing invited speakers which has positively affected the proportion of women among the invited speakers at scientific conferences (Débarre et al 2018); analysis of data from the society Journal of Evolutionary Biology showing under-representation of female first- and last-authors, but a gender-neutral editorial and peer-review process (Edwards et al 2018); creation of BiasWatchEvol to raise awareness of gender bias in evolutionary biology; and establishment of WhatScientistsWear to document what evolutionary biologists wear to congresses to empower future PhD students.

The Congress Attendance Aid grant aims to improve diversity at ESEB and EMPSEB congresses. The grant aims to achieve this by increasing attendance of underrepresented groups, primarily, but not solely, caregiving women (who due to higher costs of childcare are often prevented from attending), through positive discrimination. ESEB funded 54 out of 61 applications in the last two years (7 applications were not eligible).

Additionally, data about symposium organisers and invited speakers from the ESEB 2018 and 2019 congresses were analysed and publicised on the congress websites. ESEB has continued to address gender bias of invited speakers at its congresses: 43% of invited speakers were females at ESEB 2018 and 52% at ESEB 2019. These values are greater than the average 17% of female invited speakers at ESEB 2001–2013, and do not differ from expectations from baseline populations. Additionally, recent ESEB congresses have provided childcare, and their usage was monitored; 63 children from 45 families (2018), and 21 children from 16 families (2019) benefited from this childcare. The childcare at both congresses received exceptionally positive feedback; many participants using it would not have been able to attend without it.

The ESEB EO committee would like to take this opportunity to encourage anyone interested in improving equal opportunities within evolutionary biology to apply for an EO Initiative Grant, and call for distribution of this information among your own institutions and departments.

Hannah Dugdale, Michael Jennions and Julia Schroeder, EO committee

Reference

Débarre, F., Rode, N. O., & Ugelvig, L. V. (2018). Gender equity at scientific events. *Evolution Letters*, 2(3), 148–158.

Edwards HA, Schroeder J, Dugdale HL (2018) Gender differences in authorships are not associated with publication bias in an evolutionary journal. *PLoS ONE*, 13, e0201725.

ESEB EO Congress Attendance Aid Grants

Next deadline February 3, 2020

In 2020, the congress attendance aid grants will be for scientists wishing to attend the EMPSEB meeting. Follow this link for more detailed information:

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ESEB EO Funds

Next deadline March 31, 2020

In 2020, the congress attendance aid grants will be for young scientists wishing to attend the EMPSEB meeting. Follow this link for more detailed information:

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ESEB Progress Meeting in Evolutionary Biology

Next deadline to be announced in summer 2020

This is our most recent initiative to support short meetings on focused topics in the field of evolutionary biology, with the objective to produce either a Special Issue or a Target Review for the *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*. More information: <https://eseb.org/prizes-funding/progress-meetings-in-evol-biol/>

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ESEB Special Topics Networks

Next deadline to be announced in autumn 2020

The aim of the ESEB Special Topic Networks is to establish a small consortium of researchers that organize a wide range of activities in specialist areas relevant to current Evolutionary Biology in Europe. So far, these have mainly been small symposia and workshops in various formats. In 2019, two networks were granted by an anonymous selection panel. The topics “The Evolutionary Ecology of Thermal Fertility Limit” and “Synthesizing Micro- and Macro-Evolutionary Processes Shaping Prokaryotic Genomes” were selected.

For a full list of the running networks, see <https://eseb.org/prizes-funding/special-topic-networks/>. Next call for the STNs is expected in autumn 2020.

Follow this link for more detailed information:

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SUNDRIES

Policy matters

ESEB supported the campaign to amend the portfolio title of EU commissioner Mariya Gabriel, initially proposed to be "Innovation and Youth". The open letter, signed by a large number of scientists, scientific Society representatives, university heads and academics across Europe, complained that the proposed title emphasized "economic exploitability (i.e. 'innovation') over its foundation, which is education and research, and it reduce[d] 'education' to 'youth' while being essential to all ages". The campaign was a success and the title changed to "Education, Research, Innovation and Youth" (see <https://indico.uis.no/event/5/>).

Sustainability matters

The ESEB congress has a large carbon footprint and raises other environmental concerns. The ESEB Executive and Council are sensitive to these issues and are discussing ways to reduce negative impacts our activities might make. Recent congress organizers have had sustainability very much in mind.

For example:

- Profits (more than 65K Euros) from the Joint Congress in Montpellier, France (2018), were donated to the non-profit organisation Rainforest Rescue (www.rainforest-rescue.org), benefiting two different projects: Borneo (buying palm oil plantations and reforestation to create a network of large protected areas in Eastern Sabah; <https://www.sauvonslaforet.org/dons/264/nous-reboisons-les-plantations-de-palmiers-a-huile>); and Peru (buying rainforest for a protected area of the Peruvian Amazon; <https://www.rainforest-rescue.org/donate/148/peru-help-protect-the-amazon-rainforest>).
- The ESEB2019 congress in Turku, Finland (2019), strove to reduce the environmental impact of the congress in a variety of ways. The meeting was nearly plastic free (crockery and utensils were washable rather than disposable, glasses were available for drinks, name tags did not have a plastic pocket, and no pens or other unnecessary items were provided. Lanyards were made from recycled materials and printed with the generic ESEB logo so they can be reused at future ESEB meetings. Conference bags were optional, and were made from recycled material (printed at a local work rehabilitation centre) and included only a small ESEB2019 tag, enabling unused bags to be re-purposed for future congresses. T-shirts (available for an extra fee) were also made from recycled material. Lunches were fully vegetarian on two days, and on two other days fish was from lakes. Vegan alternatives were included each day as standard for everyone. One-week bus passes were provided as a part of the conference registration fee.

If you have concrete ideas for further ways of reducing our carbon footprint and increasing our sensitivity to environmental matters, please send them to Ute Moniatte (office@eseb.org) for inclusion in discussions by the ESEB Executive committee and Council.

ESEB
European Society for Evolutionary Biology
www.eseb.org

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