Wen-Juan Ma

Assistant Professor
Biology Department | Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Pleinlaan 2
1050 Brussels, Belgium
wen-juan.ma@vub.be
wenjuanma84@gmail.com
ORCID: 0000-0003-2585-6406
www.wmalab.com
+32 2 629 3416

Education

10.2009-12.2014	**Ph.D**. **Evolutionary Genetics**, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
09.2006-07.2009	**M.S. Evolutionary Ecology**, *Summa cum laude* Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences
09.2002-07.2006	**B.S. Biological Science**, *Summa cum laude* Nanyang Normal University, China

Academic Employment

01.2023-	**Assistant Professor**, Biology Department, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium
08.2020-12.2022	**Postdoctoral research associate**, Department of Molecular Biosciences, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, USA
06.2018-07.2020	**NIH Postdoctoral research associate**, Department of Biology, Amherst College, MA, USA
08.2018-10.2018	**Visiting scholar**, Department Ecologie Systematics and Evolution, Université of Paris-Sud, Orsay, France
03.2018-05.2018	(Informal) **visiting scholar**, Department of Biology, University of Indiana, IN, USA
08.2014-02.2018	**SNSF Postdoctoral fellow**, Department of Ecology and Evolution, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
08.2014-01.2018	**Teaching assistant**, Department of Ecology and Evolution University of Lausanne, Switzerland
01.2010-01.2014	**Graduate teaching assistant**, University of Groningen, the Netherlands
07.2009-08.2009	**Research associate**, Chinese Academy of Science, Xishuangbanna, China
09.2003-08.2005	**Undergraduate teaching assistant,** Nanyang Normal University, China

Honors, Awards, Fellowships and Grants

Pending grants

2026	€20,000	**FWO-NSFC joint mobility grant** (PI)
2026	€672,500	**FWO junior research grant** (PI)
2026	€250,000	**FRIA PhD fellowship** (main co-promoter)
2025	€650,000	**COST** – Tree of sex consortium

Grant/Fellowship/Honors (in total: **€2,625,950; $27,500; ¥12,000**)

2026-2029	**€209,632.50**	**FWO infrastructure grant** (co-PI)
2026-2029	**€653,117**	**FWO junior research grant** (PI)
2025	€250	ESEB conference aid grant
2025	$2,000	SMBE aid and gender equality grant
2025	**€25,500**	**VUB-CSC joint PhD grant,** co-PI with Qi Zhou, Zhejiang University, China
2024	**€55,000**	**ULB-VUB seed grant for joint PhD**, co-PI with Jean-François Flot, Belgium
2023	€500	FWO travel grant
2023-2027	**€100,000**	**VUB startup funding**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
2023-2028	**€1,499,950**	**ERC (European Research Council) Starting Grant**

05.2022	€500	ESEB2022 conference aid grant
02.2022	**$25,000**	**K-INBRE Postdoc Awards** Year 2022
08.2021	€1,000	ESEB satellite symposium fund, 'The remarkable diversity in the rate and mechanisms of sex chromosome evolution'
05.2018	$500	Travel grant, Society for the Study of Evolution
06.2016	¥1,000	Team award to fig-fig wasp coevolution, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
2013	€500	Travel grant, Dutch Uyttenboogaart-Eliasen Foundation
2009-2014	**€80,000**	**PhD Ubbo Emmius faculty fellowship**, University of Groningen, Netherlands
2009	¥2,000	Best master thesis award of DiAo, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
2009	Top 4%	Outstanding Graduate in XTBG, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
2002-2006	¥4,000	First-Class Departmental Scholarship for 4 years, Nanyang Normal Uni., China
2006	Top 1%	Outstanding Graduate, Nanyang Normal University, China
2004	¥5,000	National Scholarship for Excellent Study (Top 0.1%), Nanyang Normal Uni.

Secured grant for lab trainees (in total: ~ €**22,650**)

2026	~€900	Antoine Gradel (postdoc), FWO travel grant to support his scientific diving course.
2026	~€900	Ricard Fontserè (PhD student), FWO travel grant to for a short scientific stay in Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change, Bonn, Germany
2026	~€1000	Antoine Houtain (postdoc), FWO travel grant for a short scientific visit in Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
2025	~€600	Paris Veltsos (postdoc & associate group leader), FWO travel grant for a short scientific visit in Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
2025	~€500	Ricard Fontserè (PhD student), FWO travel grant to attend EMBO workshop in Florence, Italy
2025	~€8000	Ezgi Unal (PhD student), FWO travel grant for a long scientific visit in UAB Spain
2025	~€3800	Barbora Augstenová (postdoc), FWO travel grant for a long field sampling in Puerto Rico
2025	~€6500	Ezgi Unal (PhD student), FWO travel grant for a long scientific visit in UAB Spain
2025	~€1150	Barbora Augstenová (postdoc), FWO travel grant for a short scientific visit in INRAE (Rennes, France).
2024	~€350	Fantin Carpentier (postdoc), FWO travel grant to support attending PopGroup meeting in Shefield, UK

Publications

Prep. Preprint and under review:

39) E Unal[#], P Veltsos, **W-J Ma**. (2026) Extreme heterochiasmy in amphibians anurans: meiotic constraints, evolutionary causes and genomic consequences. In prep. (target journal: Proceedings Royal Society B)
38) AO Gradel[†], BC Phillips, M Erdolu[†], N Rodrigues, R Sermier[**], P Veltsos, N Perrin, **W-J Ma**. (2026) Geographically structured Y haplotypes reveal recurrent sex chromosome differentiation in the European common frog. In prep. (target journal: Molecular Biology and Evolution)
37) **W-J Ma**, A Gupta, N Roy, T Conway, J Lea, M Chakraborty, JP Blumenstiel, RR Bracewell, G Lee, E Long, J Udall, KB Patch##, AG. Clark, SHE Zanders, RL Unckless. (2026) The genetics and genomics of sex-ratio meiotic drive in *Drosophila affinis*. Ready for submission.
36) **JF Bekaert**[#], B Star, **W-J Ma**, MD Shawkey, J Goldenberg. (2026) Ecology, not ancestry, associates with blue flank coloration in lacertid lizards. Resubmitted (major revision). **Ecography**.
35) CE McDonough-Goldstein, SE, Young, M Neiman, S Paez, N Valenzuela, CG Sotero-Caio, DL Jeffries, OM Palacios-Gimenez, JK Abbott, C Benvenuto, AK Huylmans, S Calhim, JA Bzeza, AJ Mongue, EL Larson, L Andjel, R Melzer, A Ruiz-Herrera, **Tree of Sex Consortium+,** Navigating the semantic labyrinth of "sex" in the study of reproductive trait evolution. Minor revision. **Integrative and Comparative Biology**

34) **W-J Ma**, R Fontserè[#], T Cornelis[##], P Veltsos, Q Zhou. (2026) Sex Chromosome Stability And Turnover Across Vertebrates: A Developmental Gene Regulatory Network Perspective. bioRxiv: Https://Doi.org/10.48550/ArXiv.2602.23624. Resubmitted. Minor revision. **GBE**.

33) F Carpentier[†], P Veltsos, E Unal[#], KL Doucette, R Fontseré[#], A Brelsford, MA Toups, N Perrin, **W-J Ma**. (2026) Non-Canonical Sex Chromosome Evolution Revealed By Extreme Heterogeneity In Homomorphic Y Chromosome Differentiation In The Common Frog. bioRxiv: Https://Doi.org/10.64898/2025.12.31.6972. Resubmitted. **PNAS**.

Peer-reviewed publications: total citations until 09.2026: 1118, h-index: 17, i10-index: 22

- Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=D21ZTf0AAAAJ&view_op=list_works&sortby=pubdate
- ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2585-6406

32. JAD Vidal, D Charlesworth, **W-J Ma**, Q Zhou, R Utsunomia, AJB Gomes, AB da Silva, F Porto-Foresti, T Liehr, M de Bello Cioffi. (2025) Investigating the evolution of large meiotic rings of multiple X and Y sex chromosomes in two Leptodactylus frog species (Anura, Leptodactylidae)
   - **Communications Biology**, 8, 1636 **(IF=5.2, citation=2)**

31. SS Shinde[†], P Veltsos, **W-J Ma**. (2025) Gene duplication, translocation and molecular evolution of *Dmrt1* and related sex-determining genes in anurans
   - **Biomolecules,** 15(9), 1306 **(IF=4.8, citation=1)**

30. E.A. Lucotte, P Jay, Q Rougemont, L Boyer, A Cornille, A Snick, A Labat, E Chain, M Duhamel, J Gendelman, **W-J Ma**, R K Hayes, M.H. Berlin M.E. Hood, R.C. Rodriguez de la Vega, T Giraud. (2025). Repeated loss of function at HD mating-type genes and of recombination in anther-smut fungi. doi: https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-60222-5
   - **Nature Communications**, 16, 4962 **(IF=14.920, citation=13)**

29. D Jeffries, C Benvenuto, A Böhne, C Fraisse, S Garcia, P Jay, L Kratochvíl, CE McDonough-Goldstein, A Ruiz-Herrera, CG Sotero-Caio, MA. Wilson, **Tree of Sex Consortium**+, KS Jaron. (2025). The Tree of Sex consortium: A global initiative for studying the evolution of reproduction in eukaryotes
   - **Journal of Evolutionary Biology**, 38(7), 861-886. **(IF=2.441, citation=9)**

28. B. Augstenová[†], **W-J Ma.** (2025). Decoding *Dmrt1*: Insights into vertebrate sex determination and gonadal sex differentiation. arXiv: https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2407.12060
   - **Journal of Evolutionary Biology,** 38(7), 811-831. **(IF=2.441, citation=23)**

27. P Veltsos, S Shinde[†], **W-J Ma**. (2024). Sex chromosome evolution: the classical paradigm and so much beyond.
   - **Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Biology**. (**citation=5**)

26. **W-J Ma**, M. Rovatsos. (2022) Sex chromosome evolution: The remarkable diversity in the evolutionary rates and mechanisms.
   - **Journal of Evolutionary Biology** 35: 1581-1588 **(IF=2.441, citation=15)**

25. **W-J Ma**, K. Brunsell**, E. Knoles[##], MM. Schoaib[##], RL Unckless (2022). Hoisted with his own petard: how sex-ratio meiotic drive in *Drosophila affinis* creates resistance alleles that limit its spread.
   - **Journal of Evolutionary Biology** 35: 1765-1776 **(IF=2.441, citation=8)**

24. **W-J Ma**, P Veltsos (2021). The diversity and evolution of sex chromosomes in frogs**.**
   - **Genes** 12: 483. **(IF=4.096, citation=73)**
   - https://doi.org/10.3390/genes12040483

23. **W-J Ma**, BA Pannebakker, X Li[#], E Geyverink, SY Anvar, P Veltsos, T Schwander, L van de Zande, LW Beukeboom. (2021). A single QTL with large effect is associated with decay of female functional virginity in an asexual parasitoid wasp.
   - **Molecular Ecology** 30: 1979-1992. **(IF=6.131, citation=17)**
   - doi: 10.1111/mec.15863.

22. **W-J Ma,** F Carpentier[#], T Giraud, M Hood. (2020). Differential gene expression between fungal mating types is associated with sequence degeneration.
   - **Genome Biology and Evolution** 12: 234-258. **(IF=3.726, citation=14)**
   - doi: https://doi.org/10.1093/gbe/evaa028

21. **FE Hartmann**[*], **W-J Ma**[*]. (2020). Digest: Climate plays margical role for homomorphic sex chromosome differentiation in common frogs.
   - **Evolution** 74: 690-693. (**IF=4.201, citation=2**)

- doi : https ://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/evo.13936

20. P Veltsos, N Rodrigues[#], T Studer[##], **W-J Ma**, S Sermier[**], N Perrin. (2020). No evidence that Y-chromosome differentiation affects male fitness in a Swiss population of common frogs.

- **Journal of Evolutionary Biology** 33: 401-409. **(IF=2.792, citations=18)**
- doi: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/jeb.13573

19. FE Hartmann, RC Rodríguez de la Vega, P Gladieux, **W-J Ma**, J Antonovics, ME Hood, T Giraud. (2019). Higher gene flow in sex-related chromosomes than in autosomes during fungal divergence.

- **Molecular Biology and Evolution** 37: 668-682. **(IF=14.797, citations=26)**
- doi : https ://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msz252

18. **W-J Ma**, L Santos Del Blanco, JR Pannell. (2019). A new biological species in the *Mercurialis annua* polyploidy complex: functional divergence in inflorescence morphology and hybrid sterility.

- **Annals of Botany** 124: 165-178. **(IF=4.041, citations=5)**
- doi : https ://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcz058

17. **W-J Ma,** R Sermier[**], P Veltsos, DJ Parker, N Perrin. (2018). Evolutionary and developmental dynamics of sex-biased gene expression in common frogs with proto-Y chromosomes.

- **Genome Biology** 19: 156. **(IF=13.214, citation=43)**
- doi : https://doi.org/10.1186/s13059-018-1548-4

16. DL Jeffries, G Lavanchy[##], R Sermier[**], MJ Sredl, I Miura, A Borzée, LN Barrow, D Canestrelli, P-A Crochet, C Dufresnes, J Fu, **W-J Ma**, C Macías Garcia, K Ghali[#], AG Nicieza, RP O'Donnell, N Rodrigues[#], A Romano, Í Martínez-Solano, I Stepanyan, S Zumbach, A Bresfold, N Perrin. (2018). A rapid rate of sex-chromosome turnover and non-random transitions in true frogs.

- **Nature Communications** 9 : 4088. **(IF=14.920, citation=237)**
- doi : https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-018-06517-2

15. **W-J Ma**, P Veltsos, MA Toups, N Rodrigues[#], R Sermier[**], DL Jeffries, N Perrin. (2018). Tissue specificity and dynamics of sex-biased gene expression in a common frog population with differentiated, yet homomorphic, sex chromosomes.

- **Genes** 9: 294. **(IF=4.096, citation=36)**
- doi : https ://doi.org/10.3390/genes9060294

14. N Rodrigues[#], T Studer[##], C Dufresnes, **W-J Ma**, P Veltsos, N Perrin. (2017). *Dmrt1* polymorphism and seks chromosome differentiation in *Rana temporaria*.

- **Molecular Ecology** 26: 4897-4905. **(IF=6.131, citation=44)**
- doi: https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.14222

13. **W-J Ma**, T Schwander. (2017). Patterns and mechanisms in instances of endosymbiont-induced parthenogenesis.

- **Journal of Evolutionary Biology** 30: 868-888. **(IF=2.792, citation=159)**
- doi : https ://doi.org/10.1111/jeb.13069

12. **W-J Ma,** N Rodrigues[#], R Sermier[**], A Brelsford, N Perrin. (2016) *Dmrt1* polymorphism covaries with sex-determination patterns in *Rana temporaria*.

- **Ecology and Evolution** 6: 5107-5117. **(IF=2.537, citation=39)**
- doi : https ://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.2209

11. **W-J Ma,** JR Pannell. (2016). Sex determination: separate sexes are a double turnoff in melons.

- **Current Biology** 26: R171-R174. **(IF=9.193, citation=15)**
- doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2015.12.026

10. **W-J Ma,** BA Pannebakker, L van de Zande, T Schwander, B Wertheim, LW Beukeboom. (2015). Diploid males support a two-step mechanism for endosymbiont-induced thelytoky in a parasitoid wasp.

- **BMC Evolutionary Biology** 15: 84. **(IF=3.027, citation=62)**
- doi: https://doi.org/10.1186/s12862-015-0370-9

9. **W-J Ma**, BA Pannebakker, LW Beukeboom, T Schwander, L van de Zande (2014). Genetics of decayed sexual traits in a parasitoid wasp with endosymbiont-induced parthenogenesis.

- **Heredity** 113: 424-431. **(IF=3.801, citation=21)**
- doi: https://doi.org/10.1038/hdy.2014.43

8. **W-J Ma**, F Vavre, LW Beukeboom (2014). Manipulation of arthropod sex determination by endosymbionts: diversity and molecular mechanisms.

- **Sexual Development** 8: 59-73. **(IF=2.250, citation=76)**
- doi: https://doi.org/10.1159/000357024

7. **W-J Ma,** B Kuijper, JG de Boer, L van de Zande, LW Beukeboom, B Wertheim, BA Pannebakker (2013).

Absence of complementary sex determination in the parasitoid wasp genus *Asobara* (Hymenoptera: Braconidae).

- **PloS ONE** 8: e60458. **(IF=2.776, citation=25)**
- doi: https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0060459

6. **W-J Ma**, D-R Yang, Y-Q Peng (2009). Disturbance effects on community structure of *Ficus tinctoria* fig wasp in Xishuangbanna, China: implication for the fig/fig wasp mutualism.

- **Insect Science** 16: 417-424. **(IF=2.71, citation=10)**
- doi: https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-7917.2009.01265.x

5. **W-J Ma**, Y-Q Peng, D-R Yang, J-M Guan (2009). Coevolution of reproductive characteristics in three dioecious fig species and their pollinator wasps.

- **Symbiosis** 49 : 87-94. **(IF=2.009, citation=13)**
- doi: https://doi.org/10.1007/s13199-009-0018-x

4. **W-J Ma**, F-P Zhang, Y-Q Peng, D-R Yang (2009). Comparison of style length and reproduction success in *Ficus* of different breeding systems.

- **Chinese Journal of Plant Ecology** 33: 911-918. **(IF=2.541, citation=3)**

3. **W-J Ma,** Y-Q Peng, D-R Yang (2009). Variation of reproduction success in *Ficus tinctoria* and the implication in fig evolution.

- **Zoological Research Suppl**.: 139-145.

[+] member of Tree of Sex consortium.
[*] Equal contribution.
[**] Publications include contribution from supervised technicians.
[†] Publications include contribution from supervised postdocs.
[#] Publications include contribution from informally supervised PhD students.
[##] Publications include contribution from supervised master/undergraduate students.

PhD thesis and thesis chapter

2. E Geuverink, M van Leussen, **W-J Ma**, LW Beukeboom, L van de Zande. (2017). Identification, seks-specific splicing and maternal provision of *transformer* and *transformer-2* in arrhenotokous and *Wolbachia*-infected thelytokous *Asobara japonica*. Chapter 6. *Parental and Endosymbiont Effects on Seks Determination in Haplodiploid Wasps-Who is in Control?* **PhD thesis** of E. Geuverink. University of Groningen, The Netherlands.

1. **W-J Ma**. 2014. Evolutionary genetics of *Wolbachia*-induced parthenogenesis in the parasitoid *Asobara japonica*: seks determination and sexual decay. **PhD thesis,** University of Groningen, The Netherlands **(citation=3)**

Invited talks

In total, I have been invited to give talks for 32 departmental seminars, 5 conferences and 1 workshop.

02.2027	(scheduled) **Departmental seminar.** Biology Department, University of Namur, Belgium
02.2026	**Departmental seminar.** Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change, Germany
11.2025	**'Tree of Life' Departmental seminar**. Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
04.2025	**Departmental seminar**. Institute of Science and Technology Austria, Austria
04.2025	**PopGen Vienna seminar**. Vienna Grad. School of Population Genetics, Austria
12.2024	**Departmental seminar.** KU Leuven, Belgium
10.2023	**Current Topics in Zoology and Evolution Seminar**. University of Basel, CH
10.2023	**IB2 Research Day 2023.** Interuniversity Institute of Bioinformatics in Brussels, Belgium
05.2023	**Evolution & Ecology Seminar**. University of Lille, Lille, France
03.3023	**Departmental seminar**. Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium
12.2022	**Institute seminar.** KU Center for Genomics early career researcher seminar. University of Kansas, Lawrence KS, USA
07.2022	**Departmental seminar**. University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands
06.2022	**Departmental seminar**. University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK
05.2022	**Departmental seminar**. University of Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

04.2022 **Departmental seminar**. Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium
02.2022 **Institute seminar**. Earlham Institute, Norwich, UK
02.2022 **Institute seminar**. The Institute of Functional Genomics of Lyon, Lyon, France
07.2021 **Departmental seminar**. School of Life Sciences, University of Essex, Colchester, UK
02.2021 **Departmental seminar**. Department of Biology, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO, USA
09.2020 **EEB Genetics seminar**. Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and Department of Molecular Bioscience, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, USA
06.2020 **Evolutionary Biology Group seminar**. Department of Biology, University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany
02.2020 **Departmental seminar**. Department of Biology, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA
02.2020 **Departmental seminar**. Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, USA
01.2020 **Departmental seminar**. School of Biological Sciences, Illinois State University, USA
01.2020 **Conference speaker**. Invited but declined. Symposium 'Emerging frontiers in sex chromosome evolution', 9th World Congress of Herpetology, Dunedin, New Zealand.
01.2020 **Conference speaker.** 'The International Plant and Animal Genome (PAG) conference', 'Sex Chromosome and Sex Determination' workshop, San Diego, CA, USA.
08.2019 **Departmental seminar**. School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen, UK
06.2019 **Conference speaker**. 'Evolution 2019, Providence, Rhode Island
05.2019 **Departmental seminar.** Institute of Integrative Biology, University of Liverpool, UK
04.2019 **Departmental seminar**. Milner Center for Evolution, University of Bath, UK
01.2019 **Conference speaker.** Invited but declined. 'The International Plant and Animal Genome (PAG) Conference', San Diego, CA, USA.
12.2018 **Departmental seminar.** Seminar for Department of Biology, Amherst College, MA, USA
09.2018 **Departmental seminar.** Seminar for Department of Genetic and Ecology Evolution, Université Paris-Sud, Orsay, France
06.2016 **Departmental seminar.** Institutional external seminar, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xishuangbanna, China
08.2015 **Conference speaker**. 'Nöthiger insect sex determination' workshop, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland
07.2014 **Workshop speaker.** 'Evolution of asexual genome' workshop, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland
10.2013 **Departmental seminar**. Laboratory of Genetics seminar, Wageningen University, NL
02.2010 **Departmental seminar.** Lab seminar, Leiden, The Netherlands

Conference presentations

All as first author presentations: 26 talks, 11 posters at international conferences/seminars

12.2026 (scheduled) **Talk** Amphibian Genome Consortium seminars, virtue
10.2026 (scheduled) **Talk** Vertebrate Genome Consortium Sex chromosome workgroup seminars, virtue
07.2026 **Talk** SMBE conference, Copenhagen, Denmark
01.2026 **Talk** PopGroup 59 conference, Lille, France
08.2025 **Talk** ESEB 2025, Barcelona, Spain
07.2025 **Talk** SMBE 2025, Beijing, China
09.2023 **Talk** Conferences Jacques-Monod, Sex unfolded: sex, asex, sexes, Roscoff, France
08.2022 **Talk** ESEB 2022, Prague, Czech Republic
04.2022 **Talk** 63rd Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference, San Diego, CA, USA
01.2022 **Talk** 55th PopGroup meeting, the Earlham Institute, John Innes Centre, University of East Anglia, UK
06.2021 **Talk** virtual Evolution meeting, 2021
06.2021 **Talk** ESEB satellite symposium 2021, 'Genomic signatures and consequences of sex and asexuality'
01.2021 **Talk** the virtual 54th PopGroup meeting, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK
01.2020 **Talk** PAG XVIII, San Diego, CA, USA
08.2019 **Poster** ESEB, Turku, Finland
06.2019 **Poster** Evolution, Providence, USA

06.2019 **Talk** Evolution 2019, Providence, Rhode Island, USA
08.2018 **Poster** Joint meeting of ESEB and Evolution, Montpellier, France
08.2017 **Poster** European Society for Evolutionary Biology, Groningen, The Netherlands
01.2017 **Talk** PoPGroup meeting, Cambridge, UK
06.2016 **Talk** Evolution of sex det. Workshop, La Sage, Switzerland
02.2016 **Poster** Swiss Biology Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland
12.2015 **Talk** PopGroup 49 meeting, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland
08.2015 **Poster** European Society for Evolutionary Biology, Lausanne, Switzerland
07.2014 **Talk** 'Evolution of asexual genome' workshop, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland
08.2013 **Poster** European Society for Evolutionary Biology, Lisbon, Portugal
06.2013 **Talk** Insect sex determination workshop, Gif-sur-Yvette, Paris, France
02.2013 **Talk** Netherlands Annual Ecology meeting, Lunteren, The Netherlands
12.2012 **Talk** Entomologen Dag, Ede, The Netherlands
12.2011 **Talk** Entomologen Dag, Ede, the Netherlands
11.2011 **Talk** NEV herfstvergadering, Groningen, The Netherlands
10.2011 **Poster** Sixth International Symposium on Molecular Insect Science, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
10.2011 **Poster** European workshop on sex determination in insects, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
06.2011 **Poster** Genetics, Epigenetics and Evolution of Sex Chromosomes, Paris, France
11.2010 **Talk** Meeting of the Insect Parasitoid Special Interest Group of the Royal Entomological Society, University of York, York, UK
11.2010 **Poster** Plant-Insect interaction workshop, Wageningen, The Netherlands
11.2007 **Talk** Conference of "Biodiversity—Challenges to the New Century", Jinghong, China

Additional training (workshops/conferences, in total 27x)

03.2026 **'Using AI to help prepare your ERC research proposal'**, VUB, Brussels, Belgium
02.2025 **'How AI helps with ERC grant writing'**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium
07.2024 **Tree of Sex 2.0 workshop**, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
06.2023 **Tree of Sex 2.0 workshop**, Sanger Institute, Cambridge, UK
06.2023 **PhD Supervisor workshop2**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium
04.2023 **PhD Supervisor workshop1**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium
05.2022 **1st KU Centre for Genomics Symposium** 2022, University of Kansas, USA
12.2021 **ADVANCEGeo "DEI"** workshop, University of Kansas, USA
09.2021 "**SafeZone Training**" (allies to the LGBTQ+ students), University of Kansas, KS, USA
06.2021 "**Plant Sex Chromosome Evolution**" workshop, virtue, organized by University of Munich
06.2018 **"Scientific Programming with Python"**, Amherst College, Amherst, MA, USA
04.2018 "***De novo* transcriptome assembly**", University of Indiana, USA
02.2018 **"Lausanne Genomic Days"**, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
03.2017 **"Python for Life Scientists"**, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland
02.2017 **"Lausanne Genomic Days"**, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
10.2016 "**De novo Transcriptome assembly**", University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland
06.2016 "**Evolution of sex determination**", La Sage, Switzerland
02.2016 **"Lausanne Genomic Days"**, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
08.2015 "**Nöthiger insect sex determination**", University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland
01.2015 "**Introductory Course in Laboratory Animal Science**", University of Lausanne, Switzerland
12.2014 "**Learning Python for life sciences**", University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland
07.2014 "**Evolution of asexual genome**", University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland
06.2014 "**NGS genome & transcriptome assembly and analysis**", University of Fribourg, Switzerland
11.2013 "**Writing a Grant Proposal**", University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands
10.2013 "**RNAseq data analysis workshop**", University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands
08.2013 "**MGC Next Generation Sequencing data analysis**", Medical Genetics Centre South-West Netherlands, Leiden, The Netherlands
06.2013 "**Nöthiger Insect sex determination**", Gif-sur-Yvette, Paris, France

10.2011 "**Nöthiger Insect sex determination**", Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Service as reviewer and editor

Grant Agencies:

Czech Science Foundation (CSF, 5x)

French National Research Agency (ANR, 1x)

Scientific Journals: (until 09.2026, total = 66)

- Nature
- Nature Review Biodiversity
- Genome Biology
- PLoS Biology
- PLoS Genetics
- Molecular Biology and Evolution
- Molecular Ecology
- New Phytologist
- Proceedings of the Royal Society B
- Nature Communications
- Genome Biology and Evolution
- Axios
- Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata
- Biological Journal of the Linnean Society
- General and Comparative Endocrinology
- Peer Community IN (PCI) EvolBiol
- Evolution
- Journal of Evolutionary Biology
- Heredity
- Genes
- Journal of Heredity
- Ecology and Evolution
- Sexual Development
- Molecular Ecology Resources
- Cells
- Current Opinion in Genetics & Development
- Frontier in Zoology
- International Journal of Molecular Sciences
- PLoS ONE

Guest editor for *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*:

Special issue on 'Sex Chromosome Evolution" (2022)

Associate Editor at *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*:

02.2023 -

Associate Editor at *Heredity*:

05.2026 -

Teaching activities

Titular (Molecular Biology of the Cell)

Spring 2026 Bachelor course, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Spring 2025 Bachelor course, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Spring 2024 Bachelor course, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgiu

Co-Titular (Integrative Practical Biology)

Fall 2025 Bachelor course, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Fall 2025 Bachelor course, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Fall 2024 Bachelor course, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Fall 2023 Bachelor course, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Titular (Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics of Sex)

Fall 2026 Master course, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Fall 2024 Master course, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Fall 2023 Master course, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Guest lecturer (Evolution)

Fall 2023 Giving guest lecture for 'Evolution' course (2nd year bachelor course), Universite Libre Brussel, Brussels, Belgium

Instructor of record (Genetics and Genomics of Sex course, 1x)

Fall 2021 Bachelor course, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, USA

Teaching assistant experience (Mol. Genetics course 4x; Zoology course 2x)

09-10.2017 **TA**, '**Molecular Genetics'**, master course, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
09-10.2016 **TA**, '**Molecular Genetics'**, master course, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
02-06.2016 **TA**, '**Zoology**', bachelor course, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
09-10.2015 **TA**, '**Molecular Genetics'**, master course, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
02-06.2015 **TA**, '**Zoology**', bachelor course, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
09-10.2014 **TA**, "**Molecular Genetics**", master course, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Mentoring activities

Postdoc advisor

2026- Lydia Fong, Biology Department, VUB, Brussels, Belgium
2025- Antoine Gradel, Biology Department, VUB, Brussels, Belgium
2025- Antoine Houtain, Biology Department, VUB, Brussels, Belgium
2024-2025 Fantin Carpentier, Biology Department, VUB, Brussels, Belgium
2024-2026 Barbora Augstenová, Biology Department, VUB, Brussels, Belgium
2023-2025 Sagar Shinde. Biology Department, VUB, Brussels, Belgium
2023-2024 Meriç Erdolu. Biology Department, VUB, Brussels, Belgium
01.2023- Paris Veltsos (also sub-group leader). Biology Department, VUB, Brussels, Belgium

PhD student supervision

01.2026- Peng Zhang. Joint PhD program, Zhejiang University - VUB, Belgium
10.2025 Jelter Bekaert, Biology Department, VUB, Brussels, Belgium
10.2024- (joined PhD with ULB) Ninon Lecoquierre, Biology Department, VUB, Brussels, Belgium
2024-2025 Ramses Moortgat. Biology Department, VUB, Brussels, Belgium
02.2024- Ricard Fontsere. Biology Department, VUB, Brussels, Belgium
12.2023- Hatice Ezgi Unal. Biology Department, VUB, Brussels, Belgium

Supervising/mentoring experience (6 technicians, 23 undergraduates, 6 master students)

2026- **Supervisor of Research Associate**, Tristan Cornelis, VUB, BE
2026-2027 **Supervisor of Master thesis project**, Puck Kums, VUB, BE
2025-2026 **Co-supervisor of 6 bachelor thesis project**, VUB, BE
2025-2026 **Supervisor of Master thesis project**, Tristan Cornelis, VUB, BE
07-08.2025 **Supervisor of master summer internship project**, Deepthi Deepthi, VUB, BE
2024-2025 **Co-supervisor of an undergraduate project**, Rosalie Van Eeckhaute, VUB, BE
2024-2025 **Co-supervisor of undergraduate project**, Rehani Allan Ndeze Ndabishoboye, VUB, BE
2024-2025 **Co-supervisor of an undergraduate project**, Rafaël Kana, VUB, BE
2023-2024 **Supervisor of an undergraduate project**, Ezel Hahar Balci, VUB, BE
2023-2025 **Supervisor of an undergraduate project**, Benjamin Aime Allaer, VUB, BE
08-09.2023 **Summer internship Master student**, Fanny Kratz, VUB, BE
08-09.2023 **Summer internship undergraduate student**, Tristan Cornells, VUB, BE
06-11.2023 **Supervisor of animal lab technician**, Marzie Bagheri, VUB, BE
04.2023-2024 **Supervisor of an undergraduate project**, Marie Aerts, VUB, BE
04.-06.2023 **Supervisor of a first-step Master project**, Marzie Bagheri, VUB, BE
04.-09.2023 **Supervisor of lab technician,** Evert Bruyninckx, VUB, BE
01.2023- **Supervisor of lab technician**, Ann Pauwels, VUB, BE
09.2021-02.2022 **Supervisor of an undergraduate project**, Jordanne Paxton, University of Kansas, USA
06.2021-08.2022 **Supervisor of an undergraduate project**, Murtaza Shoaib, University of Kansas, USA
06.2021-02.2022 **Supervisor of a lab technician**, Hunter Duke, University of Kansas, KS, USA
09.2018 **PhD mid-thesis evaluation, 'Evolution of mating-type chromosomes in the anther-smut fungi'**, Fantin Carpentier, University of Paris-Sud, Orsay, France
08-09.2015 **Supervisor of internship undergraduate** Anthony Sonrel, University of Lausanne, CH
07-08.2015 **Supervisor of internship undergraduate** Sarah Beuvier, University of Lausanne, CH
10.2014-03.2016 **Co-supervisor of master project**, Guillaume Lavanchy, University of Lausanne, CH

09.2014-01.2018	**Supervisor of lab technician**, Roberto Sermier, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
02-06.2014	**Supervisor of undergraduate from NHL Hogeschool**, Kevin Noorman, NL
02.2014	**Supervisor of two Master students**, 'Animals meet Microbes', The Netherlands
09.2013-01.2014	**Supervisor of one undergraduate student** from NHL Hogeschool, Mathijs Nas, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands
02-03.2013	**Supervisor of two Undergraduate students,** Maarten Doornkamp, Heleen Fakkert, 'Evolutionary Genetic research' course, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
02-03.2011	**Supervisor of two Undergraduate students**, 'Evolutionary Genetic research' course, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

PhD advisory committee member

04.2023 - Sophie Smith, Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change, Germany
01.2023 - Jie Wang, Max Planck Institute for plant breeding research, Germany
12.2025 - Tristan Permentier, ULB, Brussels, Belgium

PhD thesis committee service

2024 -2025 Shabnam Zaman, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
2024 -2025 Edward Mayila, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
2024 Chenyao Li, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Master thesis committee service

09.2026 Romain Verhelle, ULB, Brussels, BL
06.2026 Thor Meskens, ULB, Brussels, BL
06.2026 Lola Kums, VUB, Brussels, BL
06.2026 Fien Delvaux, VUB, Brussels, BL
09.2025 Male Geerts, VUB, Brussels, BL
10.2023 Erwan Denné, VUB, Brussels, BL
09.2023 Zoë De Corte, ULB, Brussels, BL

Bachelor thesis committee service

06.2026 Jullie Bouvin, VUB, Brussels, BL
06.2026 Zoe Arys, VUB, Brussels, BL
06.2025 Puck Kums, VUB, Brussels, BL
06.2024 Arielle Ikirezi, VUB, Brussels, BL
06.2023 Phebe Arnauts, VUB, Brussels, BL
06.2023 Nathan van Dam, VUB, Brussels, BL

Academic organization/leadership services

Symposium organization: (total 10x)

06.2027	(submitted) **Main organizer for SMBE symposium**, SMBE 2027, Quebec City, Canada
07.2025	**Main organizer for SMBE symposium** 'Evolution and regulation of sex chromosomes and sex determination", SMBE 2025, Beijing, China
08.2022	**Main organizer for ESEB symposium** 'Sex chromosome evolution: the canonical model and so much beyond', ESEB 2022, Charles University, Czech Republic
05.2022	**Organizing member** for the 1st KU Centre for Genomics Symposium 2022, University of Kansas, KS, USA
08.2021	**Main organizer for ESEB satellite symposium** 'The remarkable diversity in the rate and mechanisms of sex chromosome evolution', ESEB satellite symposia 2021
08.2021	**Main organizer for AsiaEvo Symposium** "Evolutionary genetics and genomics of sex determination and sex chromosomes", AsiaEvo conference 2021
08.2019	**Main organizer for ESEB Open Symposium** sub-theme 'Genome Evolution', ESEB 2019, University of Turku, Turku, Finland
	ESEB 2015 organizing staff, ESEB 2015, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

08.2015 02.2013 **Main organizer for symposium**, "Evolutionary Ecology: Genetics of Adaptation to Environmental Shift & Species interactions", Netherlands Annual Ecology meeting (NAEM), Lunteren, The Netherlands

07.2006 **Symposium organizing member** for 'the 7th international fig-fig wasp symposium', Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xishuangbanna, China

Departmental seminar/journal club organization: (total 4x)

2023- **Departmental seminar organizer**, Biology Department, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

2020-2021 **Journal club discussion founder and organizer**, University of Kansas, KS, USA

2014-2016 **Journal club discussion founder and organizer**, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

2014-2016 **Topic group seminar organizer**, *'Reproductive System Dynamics'*, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

10.2012-2013 **Institute PhD colloquia committee member**, organizing monthly-based institute colloquia in Evolution and Ecology, University of Groningen, The Netherland

Service on faculty search as postdoc representative: (total 1x)

03.2017 **Member of PhD-Postdoc search committee** for an Assistant/Associate Professor hire**,** University of Lausanne, Department of Ecology and Evolution, Switzerland

Contribution to DEIB service and leadership: (total 8x)

12.2021 **ADVANCEGeo "DEI"** workshop, University of Kansas, KS, USA

09.2021 **Participating and active engaging in the "SafeZone Training**" (training program to be the allies to the LGBTQ+ students), University of Kansas, KS, USA

08.2021- **Written DEIB statement in my course '*Genetics and Genomics of Sex*', led DEIB discussion** in class and implementing the statement throughput my teaching

06.2020-2021 **Member of *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* Advisory Group**, including discussion on DEI issues within ESEB society, European Society of Evolutionary Biology

11.2020 **Active discussion on DEIB issues** in undergraduate researchers working in the lab during lab journal club discussion

2018-2020 **Participating in promoting campus-wide minority cultural events,** Indiana University, USA

2007-2009 **Organizing bi-monthly cultural diversity events**, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

2002-2006 **Summer internship to help minority girl students** (secondary and high school levels) with study, Nanyang Normal University, China

Professional membership

European Society for Evolutionary Biology (**ESEB**): 2013 -
Society for the Study of Evolution (**SSE**): 2017 -
American Society of Naturalists (**ASN**): 2017 –
Genetics Society of America (**GSA**): 2021 –
American Genetic Association (**AGA**): 2021 –
Royal Belgian Zoological Society (**RBZS**): 2023 -
Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution **(SMBE):** 2024 –
British Genetics Society: 2025 -

Science communication, outreach and media

- 07/2026 — Het Y-chromosoom: ten dode opgeschreven? — Popular science feature, EOS Wetenschap.
- 05/2026— What the Frog? When Sex Chromosomes Refuse to Age — ERC Inaugural Lecture, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB).
- 02.2026 — Sexual Revolution in the Animal Kingdom — Research feature, VUB News. Link
- 02.2026 —Unravel the Remarkable Diversity and Evolution of Sex Chromosomes — Research profile, VUB Tomorrow.