

# Ben KAWAM

*Social Evolution in Primates, German Primate Center, Göttingen, Kellnerweg 4, 37077 Göttingen, Germany.*

EMAIL: [ben.kawam@gmail.com](mailto:ben.kawam@gmail.com) | WEBSITE: [benkawam.github.io](https://benkawam.github.io) | GITHUB: [github.com/BenKawam](https://github.com/BenKawam)

## EDUCATION

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APR 2022 - Present	<b>Ph.D. in Behavioural Ecology</b> <i>German Primate Center &amp; University of Göttingen, Germany</i>
SEPT 2019 - NOV 2021	<b>M.Sc. Erasmus Mundus Master Programme in Evolutionary Biology</b> <i>University of Groningen, Netherlands; University of Montpellier, France</i>
SEPT 2016 - JUN 2019	<b>B.Sc. in Biology, focus on Organismal Biology and Ecology</b> <i>University of Namur, Belgium</i>
JAN 2019 - JUN 2019	<b>Exchange semester</b> <i>Uppsala University, Sweden</i>

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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APR 2022 - Present	<b>Causal inference for animal social networks</b> <i>Social Evolution in Primates, German Primate Center; HBEC, MPI-EVA</i> Development of a causal framework for the drivers of animal social network structure. SUPERVISION: <i>Daniel J. Redhead, Richard McElreath, Julia Ostner, Oliver Schülke.</i>
FEB 2021 - NOV 2021	<b>Consequences of sociality for baboon health</b> <i>Department of Anthropology, University College London</i> Collection, management, and analysis of data from a wild population of chacma baboons. SUPERVISION: <i>Alecia J. Carter.</i>
SEPT 2020 - JAN 2021	<b>Effects of predation risk on stickleback personality</b> <i>GELIFES, University of Groningen</i> Design, implementation and data analysis of a semi-natural behavioural experiment. SUPERVISION: <i>Franz J. Weissing, Marion Nicolaus &amp; Antonius Grootuis.</i>
MAR 2020 - AUG 2020	<b>Anopheles landscape genetics</b> <i>MIVEGEC, University of Montpellier</i> Analysis of genetic and ecological data for two species of <i>Anopheles gambiae</i> . SUPERVISION: <i>Michael Fontaine &amp; Carlo Costantini.</i>
SEP 2018 - DEC 2018	<b>Epigenetics and bet-hedging</b> <i>ILEE, University of Namur</i> Reviewed how epigenetic mechanisms can support a bet-hedging strategy. SUPERVISION: <i>Frédéric Silvestre.</i>

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

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2021	MSc distinction: <i>Cum laude</i> . Best Presentation, 2021 PSGB Winter Meeting. Erasmus+ Traineeship Grant (5000 EUR), funded by the EU.
2019	BSc distinction: <i>Summa cum laude</i> . Erasmus+ Mobility Grant (2000 EUR), funded by the EU.

## PUBLICATIONS

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\* indicates joint first authorship.

- 2024 **Kawam, B.**, Ostner, J., McElreath R., Schülke, O., & Redhead, D. (2024). A causal framework for animal social network structure. *bioRxiv*.
- 2020 Biber, C.\*, **Kawam, B.\***, Chapelle, V., & Silvestre, F. (2020). The role of stochasticity in the origin of epigenetic variation in animal populations. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, 60(6), 1544-1557.

## TALKS

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- 2024 **Kawam, B.**, Ostner, J., McElreath R., Schülke, O., & Redhead, D. *A causal framework for animal social network structure*.  
Conference contribution. *EHBEA 2024, Montpellier, France*.  
Invited speaker. *Department of Sociology, University of Groningen*.
- 2023 **Kawam, B.**, Ostner, J., McElreath R., Schülke, O., & Redhead, D. *Personality and social relationships in animal social networks*.  
Colloquium. *BeCog summer colloquium, Göttingen, Germany*.  
Invited speaker at the *MARM group meeting, GELIFES, University of Groningen*.
- 2021 **Kawam, B.**, Huchard, E., Cowlshaw, G., & Carter, A. J. *Health costs and benefits of social connectedness for wild baboons*.  
Conference contribution. *PSGB 2021 Winter meeting*.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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- INFERENCE Probabilistic modelling, Causal graphs, Structural Causal Models.
- PROGRAMMING R, Stan, GitHub, HTML & CSS.
- FIELDWORK Sampling of behavioural, ecological, and spatial data; basic field management.
- ILLUSTRATION Adobe Illustrator, TikZ.
- WRITING LaTeX, Quarto/R Markdown, Microsoft Office.

## RELATED EXPERIENCE

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- MAR 2022 - Present **Web Designer at Evolutionary Biology Crash Course**  
Co-responsible for Web Design, Graphic Design and Outreach.
- 2019 - Present **Scientific Illustrator**  
Creation of scientific illustrations and logos. Examples [here](#).
- JUL 2018 - AUG 2018 **Intern at Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Sierra Leone**  
Behavioural observations; animal care; logistic support; outreach.
- JUL 2017 - AUG 2017 **Intern at Cikananga Wildlife Sanctuary, Indonesia**  
Behavioural observations; animal care; logistic support; outreach.
- OCT 2015 - JAN 2016 **Volunteer at Gibbon Rehabilitation Center, Thailand**  
Outreach; animal care; gibbon tracking.

## REVIEWER EXPERIENCE

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Scientific Journals  
Biological Reviews

## TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

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| 2024 | <i>Introduction to Causal Inference and Directed Acyclic Graphs</i> (1.5 hours)<br>Invited lecturer to <i>Linear models and their application in R</i> , a course for graduate students.<br>Workshop given to PhD students of the <i>BeCog</i> program. |
| 2023 | <i>A Brief Introduction to Causal Inference</i> (30 minutes)<br>Workshop given to PhD students of the <i>BeCog</i> program.   |
| 2022 | <i>Getting Started with GitHub</i> (30 minutes)<br>Workshop given to PhD students of the <i>BeCog</i> programme.<br>Supervision of a M.Sc. student, Lena Lindner, for a 10 weeks project.   |

## REFERENCES

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### **Dr. Daniel J. Redhead**

Assistant Professor in Sociology  
Department of Sociology/ICS, University of Groningen  
Grote Rozenstraat 31, 9712 TG Groningen, The Netherlands  
*Relationship to applicant:* Co-supervisor of PhD thesis  
*Email:* d.j.redhead@rug.nl  
*Phone:* +31 (0)631985033

### **Prof. Dr. Richard McElreath**

Director  
Department of Human Behaviour, Ecology & Culture, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology  
Deutscher Platz 6, 04103 Leipzig, Germany  
*Relationship to applicant:* Co-supervisor of PhD thesis  
*Email:* richard\_mcelreath@eva.mpg.de  
*Phone:* +49 (0)341 3550 315

### **Dr. Oliver Schülke**

Senior Scientist  
Department for Behavioural Ecology, University of Göttingen  
Kellnerweg 6, D-37077 Göttingen, Germany  
*Relationship to applicant:* Co-supervisor of PhD thesis  
*Email:* oliver.Schuelke@biologie.uni-goettingen.de  
*Phone:* +49 (0)551 3923 926