

NATALIE PILAKOUTA, PhD

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EMPLOYMENT

2023– Lecturer, University of St Andrews
2019–2023 Lecturer, University of Aberdeen (*maternity leave from February 2021 to March 2022*)
2016–2019 Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Glasgow
2011–2013 Teaching Fellow, Graduate Teaching Center, Yale University

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

2017 PhD in Evolutionary Biology, University of Edinburgh (Supervisor: Dr Per Smiseth)
2013 MSc in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Yale University (Supervisor: Prof Suzanne Alonzo)
2010 BSc in Environmental Science, State University of New York at Brockport (GPA: 4.00/4.00)

HONOURS & AWARDS

2023 Nominee, Early Career Researcher Excellence Award, University of Aberdeen
2022 Scientists with Impact, Society of Experimental Biology (SEB)
2019 Runner up, John Maynard Smith Prize, European Society for Evolutionary Biology (ESEB)
2019 Early Career Researcher Prize, Scottish Universities Life Sciences Alliance (SULSA)
2016 Doctoral Researcher Award in the Life Sciences (1st place in the UK), ABTA
2016 Best Student Talk (1st place), Scottish Conference on Animal Behaviour

RESEARCH GRANTS

2021 Royal Society Research Grant (£15,526)
2019 ECR Award, Scottish Universities Life Sciences Alliance (£3,000)
2018 Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund, University of Glasgow (£3,063)
2017 Godfrey Hewitt Mobility Award, European Society for Evolutionary Biology (£1,511)
2016 Student Research Award, American Society of Naturalists (£1,580)
2014 Student Research Grant, Animal Behavior Society (£1,580)
2012 Pierce Fund, Yale University (£2,370)
2012 Graduate Research Fund, Yale University (£2,370)

TRAVEL GRANTS

2022 Early Career Conference Grant, The Association of Commonwealth Universities (£2,000)
2019 Early Career Exchange Grant, Scottish Universities Life Sciences Alliance (£4,000)
2019 Travel Grant, The Company for Biologists (£350)
2016 Travel Grant, International Society for Behavioral Ecology (£800)
2015 Training and Travel Grant, British Ecological Society (£500)
2014–2016 (3×) Conference Participation Grant, Royal Entomological Society (£1200)
2014, 2015 James Rennie Bequest Travel Grant, University of Edinburgh (£770)
2014 Conference Travel Grant, International Union for Biological Sciences (£300)

PREREGISTERED STUDIES

Pottier P, Dougherty LR, Vasudeva R, Berger D, Domenech BC, Cole B, Drobniak SM, Graziano M, Lupold S, Meena A, Nakagawa S, **Pilakouta N**, Ramm SA, Schou MF, Simões P, Svensson E, Tunj C, Fricke C (2023) Evolution of reproductive success in response to changing temperatures: a meta-analysis. OSF: osf.io/4b38s

MANUSCRIPTS IN REVIEW OR IN REVISION

[22] Sidhu K, Zafeiri S, Malcolm C, Caplat P, Lancaster L, **Pilakouta N**. Heatwaves during early development have long-term consequences for parental care in adulthood. In revision for [Animal Behaviour](#).

[21] **Pilakouta N**, Vega-Trejo R, de Boer RA, Fitzpatrick JL. Parental care and inbreeding depression help explain patterns of inbreeding avoidance in animals. In revision for [Behavioral Ecology](#).

[20] **Pilakouta N**, Patterson C. Effects of parental care on the magnitude of inbreeding depression: a meta-analysis in fishes. Revised and resubmitted to American Naturalist.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

[19] **Pilakouta N**, Sellers L, Barratt R, Ligonniere A (2023) The consequences of heatwaves for animal reproduction are timing-dependent. Functional Ecology (in press)

[18] **Pilakouta N**, Humble JL, Hill IDC, Arthur J, Costa APB, Smith BA, Kristjánsson BK, Skúlason S, Killen SS, Lindström J, Metcalfe NB, Parsons KJ. (2023) Testing the predictability of morphological evolution in contrasting thermal environments. Evolution 77:239-253.

[17] **Pilakouta N**, O'Donnell PJ, Crespel A, Levet M, Claireaux M, Humble JL, Kristjánsson BK, Skúlason S, Lindström J, Metcalfe NB, Killen SS, Parsons KJ (2023) A warmer environment can reduce sociability in an ectotherm. Global Change Biology 29:206-214.

[16] **Pilakouta N**, Killen SS, Kristjánsson BK, Skúlason S, Lindström J, Metcalfe NB, Parsons KJ. Geothermal stickleback populations prefer cool water despite multigenerational exposure to a warm environment. Ecology and Evolution 13:e9654.

[15] **Pilakouta N**, Baillet N (2022) Effects of temperature on mating behaviour and mating success: a meta-analysis. Journal of Animal Ecology 91:1642-1650.

[14] **Pilakouta N**, Alund M (2021) Sexual selection and environmental change: what do we know and what comes next? Current Zoology 67:293-298.

[13] Campbell CS, Adams CE, Bean CW, **Pilakouta N**, Parsons KJ (2021) Evolvability under climate change: bone development and shape plasticity are heritable and correspond with performance in Arctic charr (*Salvelinus alpinus*). Evolution & Development 23:333-350.

[12] **Pilakouta N**, Killen SS, Kristjánsson BK, Skúlason S, Lindström J, Metcalfe NB, Parsons KJ (2020) Multigenerational exposure to elevated temperatures leads to a reduction in standard metabolic rate in the wild. Functional Ecology 34:1205-1214.

[11] Parsons KJ, McWhinnie K, **Pilakouta N**, Walker L (2019) Does phenotypic plasticity initiate developmental bias? Evolution & Development 22:56-70.

[10] **Pilakouta N**, Hanlon EJH, Smiseth PT (2018) Biparental care is more than the sum of its parts: evidence for synergistic effects on offspring fitness. Proceedings of the Royal Society B 285:20180875.

[9] **Pilakouta N**, Smiseth PT (2017) Female mating preferences for outbred versus inbred males are conditional upon the female's own inbreeding status. Animal Behaviour 123:369-374.

[8] **Pilakouta N**, Correa MA, Alonzo SH (2017) Predation risk influences heterospecific mating preference in the green swordtail. Ethology 123:95-104.

[7] **Pilakouta N**, Smiseth PT (2016) Maternal effects alter the severity of inbreeding depression in the offspring. Proceedings of the Royal Society B 283:20161023.

[6] **Pilakouta N**, Halford C, Racz R, Smiseth PT (2016) Effects of contest experience and contest outcome on female reproductive decisions and offspring fitness. American Naturalist 188:319-328.

[5] **Pilakouta N**, Sieber D, Smiseth PT (2016) Sibling competition does not exacerbate inbreeding depression in the burying beetle *Nicrophorus vespilloides*. Journal of Evolutionary Biology 29:704-710.

[4] **Pilakouta N**, Richardson J, Smiseth PT (2016) If you eat, I eat: resolution of sexual conflict over feeding from a shared resource. Animal Behaviour 111:175-180.

[3] **Pilakouta N**, Jamieson S, Moorad JA, Smiseth PT (2015) Parental care buffers against inbreeding depression in burying beetles. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 112:8031-8035.

[2] **Pilakouta N**, Richardson J, Smiseth PT (2015) State-dependent cooperation in burying beetles: parents adjust their contribution towards care based on both their own and their partner's size. Journal of Evolutionary Biology 28:1965-1974.

[1] **Pilakouta N**, Alonzo SH (2014) Predator exposure leads to a short-term reversal in female mate preferences in the green swordtail, *Xiphophorus helleri*. Behavioral Ecology 25:306–312.

POPULAR SCIENCE ARTICLES

Pilakouta N (2018) Are two parents better than one? Yes, but only if you're a burying beetle. The Conversation.

SELECTED PRESS COVERAGE

Edinburgh Evening News	Science News	The Daily Telegraph
EurekAlert	Science Newsline	The Press and Journal
Evening Times	ScienMag	The Sun
Financial Times	Scottish Daily Mail	The Sunday Post
Herald Sun	The Australian	The Times
Metro	The Guardian	The Washington Post
News Letter	The Health Site	Western Morning News
Phys.org	The Herald	
Science Daily	The Highland Times	

RADIO INTERVIEWS

BBC World Service – Newsday
BBC Good Morning Scotland
UBC1 Radio

PLENARY TALKS

2022 Animal Science Conference, Newcastle University, UK
2021 European Meeting for PhD Students in Evolutionary Biology (EMPSEB), Ireland
2019 British Ecological Society (BES) Undergraduate Summer School, UK

INVITED SEMINARS

2023 University of St Andrews, UK
2023 University of Edinburgh, UK
2022 University of the West of Scotland, UK
2022 University College Cork (UCC), Ireland
2020 Uppsala University, Sweden
2019 University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign, USA
2019 University of Edinburgh, UK
2019 James Hutton Institute, UK
2019 University of Glasgow, UK
2019 University of Aberdeen, UK
2018 Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag), Switzerland
2016 University of Stirling, UK

INVITED CONFERENCE TALKS

2023 Society for Experimental Biology Conference, Edinburgh, UK

CONTRIBUTED CONFERENCE TALKS

2023 Behaviour Meeting, Bielefeld, Germany (scheduled)
2022 British Ecological Society (BES) Meeting, Edinburgh, UK
2022 International Society for Behavioral Ecology (ISBE), Sweden
2020 Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB) Winter Meeting
2020 British Ecological Society (BES) Meeting (virtual)
2019 European Society for Evolutionary Biology (ESEB) Meeting, Turku, Finland
2019 Society for Experimental Biology (SEB) Meeting, Seville, Spain
2019 Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB) Easter Meeting, York, UK
2018 International Conference on Stickleback Behavior and Evolution, Kyoto, Japan
2017 Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB) Winter Meeting, London, UK
2017 European Society for Evolutionary Biology (ESEB) Meeting, Groningen, The Netherlands
2016 International Society for Behavioral Ecology (ISBE) Meeting, Exeter, UK
2016 Scottish Conference on Animal Behaviour (SCAB), Stirling, UK

2015	European Society for Evolutionary Biology (ESEB) Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland
2015	European Meeting for PhD Students in Evolutionary Biology (EMPSEB), Stirling, UK
2015	Scottish Conference on Animal Behaviour (SCAB), St Andrews, UK
2014	European Meeting for PhD Students in Evolutionary Biology (EMPSEB), Belgium
2014	Ecology and Behaviour Meeting, Montpellier, France
2014	Scottish Conference on Animal Behaviour (SCAB), Edinburgh, UK

EDITORIAL WORK & PEER REVIEW

Editorial Boards

Journal of Animal Ecology, Associate Editor (2023–)
 Journal of Evolutionary Biology, Associate Editor (2023–)
 Journal of Thermal Biology, Associate Editor (2023–)
 Functional Ecology, Associate Editor (2020–)
 Current Zoology, Guest Editor (2020–2021)

Grant Panels and Peer Review College Memberships

NERC Peer Review College, Member (2023–)
 NERC Pushing the Frontiers, Moderating Panel Member (2022)
 BES Peer Review College, Member (2020–)

Peer Review – Journal Articles

Acta Ethologica	Frontiers in Zoology
American Naturalist	Functional Ecology
Animal Behaviour	Global Ecology and Biogeography
Behavioral Ecology	Heredity
Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology	Insect Science
Conservation Physiology	Journal of Animal Ecology
Current Zoology	Journal of Comparative Physiology B
Ecological Entomology	Journal of Evolutionary Biology
Ecology and Evolution	Journal of Fish Biology
eLife	Journal of Thermal Biology
Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata	Oikos
Environmental Entomology	PeerJ
Environmental Pollution	PLOS One
Ethology	PNAS
Evolution	Proceedings of the Royal Society B
Evolution Letters	Royal Society Open Science
Evolutionary Biology	The Science of Nature

Peer Review – Research Grants

British Ecological Society (BES)
 French National Research Agency (ANR)
 Icelandic Research Fund
 Leverhulme Trust
 Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)

STUDENT SUPERVISION & MENTORING

2020–	University of Aberdeen: 2 PhD students (Amber Chatten, Karendeep Sidhu), 2 MSc students (Claudia Hayward, Eirini Meligoniti, Ava Searles, Anais Baillet), 8 BSc students (Lorelei Sellers, Shannon Harvey, Emma Cassellis, Rebecca Barratt, Alice Ligonniere, Charlotte Malcolm, Stamatia Zafeiri, Charlotte Patterson, Nikki Watt), 3 research assistants (Zoe Wright, Veronika Ljungberg, Euan Young)
2016–2019	University of Glasgow: 2 MSc students (Laura Downie, William Wood), 8 BSc students (Moray Swanson, Susanne Krabbendam, Patrick O'Donnell, Jessica Curle, Ashleigh Campbell, Deborah Davy, Isabel Baruque Fisk, Timothy Ho)
2014–2016	University of Edinburgh: 2 MSc students (Tom Ratz, Rita Racz), 5 BSc students (Beth Hanlon, Daniel Sieber, Cerian Halford, Jon Richardson, Seonaidh Jamieson)
2012–2013	Yale University: 1 BSc student (Maria Correa)

POSTGRADUATE EXAMINATION

2023	Internal examiner for PhD viva (Max Tschol), University of Aberdeen
2022	External examiner for PhD viva (Floriane Leseur), University College Cork
2022	First-year PhD examination (Jodie Young), University of Aberdeen
2020–	First-year PhD examination (Anders Poulsen Charmouh), University of Aberdeen
2020–	First-year PhD examination (Ieuan Jones), University of Aberdeen
2019	Internal examiner for PhD viva (Aoife Leonard), University of Aberdeen

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023	Course Contributor, Practical Skills in Animal Behaviour, University of Aberdeen
2023	Course Coordinator, Diversity of Life 2, University of Aberdeen
2021	Course Contributor, Environmental Physiology, University of Aberdeen
2020–2023	Course Coordinator, Behavioural Ecology and Conservation, University of Aberdeen
2020	Course Contributor, Field Skills in Animal Behaviour, University of Aberdeen
2020	Course Contributor, Principles in Animal Physiology, University of Aberdeen
2019	Guest Lecturer, Behavioural Ecology, University of Glasgow
2018	Marker, Zoology MRes Programme, University of Glasgow
2018	Guest Lecturer, Behavioural Ecology, University of Glasgow
2017	Guest Lecturer, Vertebrate Life, University of Glasgow
2016	Guest Lecturer, Behavioural Ecology, University of Edinburgh
2015	Teaching Assistant, Demonstrator Induction Course, University of Edinburgh
2014–2016	Demonstrator, Behavioural Ecology, University of Edinburgh
2013–2015	Marker, Origin and Diversity of Life, University of Edinburgh
2013–2014	Demonstrator, Origin and Diversity of Life, University of Edinburgh
2013	Teaching Fellow, Introduction to Evolution and Ecology, Yale University
2011–2012	Teaching Fellow, Principles of Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior, Yale University
2011	Teaching Fellow, Animal Behavior, Yale University

TEACHING WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS ATTENDED

2022	The Case for Multiple-choice and Other Automated Assessments, University of Aberdeen
2020	Learning & Teaching in Higher Education, University of Aberdeen
2019	Research-led Teaching in the Life Sciences, University of Glasgow
2016	Designing Courses, University of Edinburgh
2016	Designing and Delivering Lectures, University of Edinburgh
2016	Introduction to Academic Practice, University of Edinburgh
2015	Interactive & Flipped Lectures in the Biosciences, University of Edinburgh
2013	Teaching Forum: Online Teaching & Student Learning, Yale Teaching Center
2011	Changing the Way We Teach Undergraduate Biology, Yale Teaching Center
2011	Preparing Future Science Faculty (lecture series), Yale Teaching Center
2011	Teaching Writing (workshop series), Yale College Writing Center

TEACHING WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS DELIVERED

2013	Teaching with Technology, Yale Teaching Center
2013	Lecture Observation Series, Yale Teaching Center
2013	Science Education Journal Club, Yale Teaching Center
2012	Leading Effective Discussions in the Classroom, Yale Teaching Center
2011–2013	Fundamentals of Teaching in the Sciences (workshop series), Yale Teaching Center
2011, 2012	Leading Effective Review Sessions, Yale Teaching Center
2011	Engaging Students in the Science Classroom, Yale Teaching Center

TEACHING ACCREDITATION

2016	Associate Fellow, UK Higher Education Academy
2013	Certificate in College Teaching Preparation, Yale University

SYMPOSIUM & CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

2023	Symposium primary organiser, Behaviour Conference, Germany
2019	Symposium primary organiser, ESEB Congress, Finland
2014–2015	Conference co-organiser, 21 st European Meeting for PhD Students in Evolutionary Biology, UK

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2023	Delivered PGR workshop on “Getting your first job post-PhD”, University of Aberdeen
2022	Moderating Panel Member, Pushing the Frontiers research grants, NERC
2022–	Executive Board Member, Anthony and Margaret Johnson Centre for Doctoral Training
2022–	Plagiarism Officer, University of Aberdeen
2019	Shortlisting for Academic Fellowship posts, University of Aberdeen
2019	Interview panel for Undergraduate Summer Scholarship, University of Glasgow
2018–2019	Co-organiser, Physiology and Life History Group, University of Glasgow
2018	Interview panel for Research Assistant post, University of Glasgow
2018	Presenter, Postgraduate Statistics Group, University of Glasgow
2015	Co-organiser, PhD Peer Group, School of Biological Sciences, University of Edinburgh
2014–2015	Mentor for first-year PhD students, PhD Peer Group, University of Edinburgh
2010–2013	Mentor for female undergraduate students in the sciences, Women in Science at Yale (WISAY)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & SCIENCE OUTREACH

2019	Pint of Science, Glasgow, UK
2017–2019	I'm a Scientist, Careers Zone (online event for public engagement: imascientist.org.uk)
2015–2019	Letters to a Pre-Scientist (pen pal programme: www.prescientist.org/)
2016	Science on a Summer's Evening, College of Science and Engineering, University of Edinburgh
2015	Event coordinator, Edinburgh International Science Festival, UK
2015	Wild About Scotland Bus, Edinburgh Zoo, UK
2014–	STEM Ambassador, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network, UK
2014	I'm a Scientist, Animal Behaviour Zone (imascientist.org.uk)
2013	Science fair judge, Hooker Elementary School, New Haven, CT, USA

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2023	Preparing for Impact in REF2028, University of Aberdeen
2023	Connecting with Industry, University of Aberdeen
2022	Pastoral Guidance and Support training, University of Aberdeen
2021	Supervisor Training, University of Aberdeen
2020	Learning & Teaching in Higher Education, University of Aberdeen
2019	Managing Research Teams, University of Glasgow
2019	Leading & Managing Projects, University of Glasgow
2019	Fellowship Writing Workshop, SULSA
2018	Bioinformatics for DNA and RNA Sequence Analysis, PR Informatics
2017	Advanced Graphics in R, Jumping Rivers
2016	Introduction to Academic Practice (HEA accreditation), University of Edinburgh