

**NVG PhD WORKSHOP**  
(organizer: Jean-Christophe. Billeter)



**Individuality and collective behavior**  
with **Dr. Jolle Jolles**  
*MPI animal behavior, Konstanz, Germany*

**Wednesday 28 November 2019, 10.00 - 17.30**  
**Groningen City Centre**  
(preceding the NVG meeting)

The 2019 NVG PhD Workshop will take place in Groningen. **The goal of the workshop is to facilitate contact and discussion among PhD students in behavioral biology.** The workshop is usually attended by about 20 PhD students and 2 senior researchers.

The 2019 workshop will consist of three main parts:

1) **Dr Jolle Jolles** will introduce the topic **“Individuality and collective behavior”**. Jolle is a Dutch Behavioral Ecologist whose research focuses on the role of individual heterogeneity in collective behavior. Jolle completed his PhD at the University of Cambridge with Dr. Andrea Manica, where he studied the interplay between consistent inter-individual differences (‘animal personality’) and the social context in three-spined sticklebacks. He then joined the Max Planck Department of Collective Behavior in Konstanz, first as a postdoc and now as an independent research fellow. Jolle uses custom developed experimental facilities that enable the automated recording and tracking of individuals in large groups of fish in combination with agent-based modelling to study how phenotypic variation affects the collective movements, decision-making, and group performance of large, dynamic schools of fish. He has been pushing a mechanistic framework for understanding the fundamental role of individual heterogeneity in collective behavior across animal species and phenotypic traits. Jolle will share his personal and professional experience working in the field of collective behavior.

2) A series of **talks by PhD students** about their work plans (15 minutes talk + 15 minutes discussion). All students (including those who are not presenting) and the 2 senior researchers are present and contribute to the discussion. Students are encouraged to present the background and main aims of their PhD projects and then focus on the challenges they are encountering so that they can benefit from the collective input of the workshop members. Discussions typically range across a series of research related issues: research question, approach, design of experiments, data analysis and technical problems. Starting PhD students (in their first or second year) are particularly encouraged to offer a presentation: this is a great opportunity to think about your project plans and get useful feedback in a non-judgmental and friendly atmosphere.

3) **Round table discussion**: a chance to start discussions and get feedback from both junior and senior scientists about a wide range of subjects that are on your mind: conduct of research, how to manage your scientific career, mixing career and life, relationship with supervisors and colleagues, etc... All matters discussed during the workshop are confidential and will not leave the room to ensure frank and open conversations.

**Provisional program:**

Coffee available from 9.30 am

10.00 – 11.00 Lecture: **Collective behavior and individuality**

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee & Tea

11.30 – 12.30 **Student Talks + Discussion**

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.00 **Student Talks + Discussion**

15.00 – 15.30 Coffee & Tea

15.30 – 16.30 **Student Talks + Discussion**

16.30 – 17.30 **Group discussion**

**Registration fee for the PhD workshop:** Included in the package for PhD-students registration to the 2019 NVG meeting at <https://zoology2019.com/>

**For other information on the PhD workshop contact:**

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