

# ZOobytes

Summer 2022

Newsletter of the Department of Zoology  
Trinity College Dublin

## NEW PEOPLE

**Viktoria Rozmann**  
PhD Student  
Luijckx Group

I'm going to do my PhD with Pepijn Luijckx on how climate variation impacts disease spread and outbreaks. Given my background in environmental management, I worked on various research topics in the past; in my BSc thesis, I compared different types of fusion reactors trying to find the most promising design. During my MSc, my thesis focused on soil enzyme activities and the effect of some by-products of coal-fired power plants on soil health since these are widely used as soil amendments. I believe my multidisciplinary experience will bring a new approach to my PhD topic.



**Dr. Rebecca Rolfe**  
Assistant Professor in Zoology  
Physiology, Developmental Biology

Dr. Rebecca Rolfe is a Physiologist specialising in Developmental Biology research that aims to advance the understanding of congenital conditions in which foetal movements are abnormal and apply information gained from developing tissues to design strategies for the repair and regeneration of biological systems. Rebecca's interests in morphological form and function are central in her research questions. After finishing her PhD at TCD, she completed a Leverhulme funded postdoc in Imperial College London, with research investigating the importance of fetal movements in spine development. She later returned to Trinity College Dublin as a research and teaching fellow, where she examined the plasticity of the developing musculoskeletal system

ZOobytes



@tcdzoology

## PROJECT FUNDING AND UPDATES

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### Dispersal and speciation in the avian archipelago

Fionn Ó Marcaigh passed his PhD viva on the 3rd of August with minor corrections. His thesis was titled "*Dispersal and speciation in the avian archipelago*" and was supervised by Nicola Marples and Dave Kelly. Fionn would like to say a big thank-you to them, as well as to Trevor Hodgkinson and Robert Whittaker for serving as his examiners, and to Pepijn Luijckx for chairing the viva. Fionn believes this was the Department's first viva to happen in-person since 2020. Thanks to everyone who came along to the talk in the Auk Room beforehand or tuned in remotely!

### Academia Europaea Membership

**Yvonne Buckley** was elected to membership of the Academia Europaea, the pan-European Academy of Sciences, Humanities and Letters. Congratulations Yvonne! [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Buckley\\_Yvonne](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Buckley_Yvonne)

### Zoology Undergraduate Awards

The J.B. Gatenby Prize – **Richard Ghiuzan & Michael Officer (jointly)**. This prize, founded in 1968 by Mrs R.R. Edwards in memory of the late Professor J.B. Gatenby, is awarded annually to the member of the Junior Sophister class who carried out the best practical work during the year.

E.A. Collen Prize in Zoology – **Aedín McAdams**. The prize was founded in 1990 by a bequest from Mrs E.A. Collen. The income from the fund is awarded annually to a student who has completed a Moderatorship in Zoology and has been accepted by Trinity College as a candidate for a higher degree. It is intended to encourage research in Zoology and is awarded on the recommendation of the Head of Discipline.

Maureen de Burgh Memorial Prize in Marine Biology – **Yvonne O'Neill**. The prize was established in 1986 by subscription in memory of Dr Maureen de Burgh, a former member of the department, to promote research in marine biology. It is awarded annually to a postgraduate or undergraduate student to cover expenses related to research in marine biology at Trinity College, on the recommendation of the Professor of Zoology and one other lecturer in the department.

W.C. Campbell Moderatorship Prize in Zoology – **Róisín Barrett**. This prize was established in 2017 by a gift from Professor William C. Campbell from his 2015 Nobel prize in Physiology or Medicine, which was awarded for discoveries concerning a novel therapy against infections caused by roundworm parasites. The gift is a token of gratitude for Prof. Campbell's undergraduate education in the Natural Sciences, and for the inspiring mentorship of Dr. James Desmond Smyth of the Zoology Department. It is awarded annually to a student with the best overall Moderatorship result in Zoology.

W.C. Campbell Undergraduate Research Prize in Zoology – **Rebecca Pendleton**. This prize was established in 2017 by a gift from Professor William C. Campbell from his 2015 Nobel prize in Physiology or Medicine, which was awarded for discoveries concerning a novel therapy against infections caused by roundworm parasites. The gift is a token of gratitude for Prof. Campbell's undergraduate education in the Natural Sciences, and for the inspiring mentorship of Dr. James Desmond Smyth of the Zoology Department. It is awarded annually to an undergraduate student with the best overall undergraduate research project result in Zoology.

### Neglected Tropical Disease Research

Sana Zulfiqar, a Sophister Medical student, has been awarded the Dr Henry Cooke Drury Student Research Fellowship to undertake a systematic review on *Strongyloides* Hyperinfection among COVID-19 Patients Treated with Corticosteroids in endemic regions under the supervision of **Celia Holland**.

### Society for Experimental Biology Annual Meeting

**Nicholas Payne** and **Jacinta Kong** attended the Society for Experimental Biology Annual Meeting in Montpellier, France (5-8th July) where Nick presented the latest on their work about the thermal dependence of biological rates in ectotherms.

### The Annual TCD Botany-Zoology Postgrad Symposium comes back with a bang!

After a hiatus during which the Symposium had to move online, the annual TCD Botany-Zoology Postgrad Symposium finally made it's return to an in-person format at the start of June 2022 for its 11th edition. It was a great opportunity too for the disciplines of Botany and Zoology to come together and hear about the wonderful research that is being carried out around the School of Natural Sciences. For some of us, it was our first time meeting certain people in person after many Zoom calls. The range of research that was showcased spanned from sharks to social media, and detoured through seaweed and the ever present climate change. We were delighted to welcome two guest speakers, Dr Anthony Heijenga from GIA Consultancy and Dr Katie O'Dwyer from the newly rechristened Atlantic Technological University, who brought in their unique perspectives on research. Well done to all the speakers, and a special congratulations to Niamh McCartan for best five minute talk, Katrin Schertenleib for second place ten minute talk, Elena Zioga for best ten minute talk and Elena Zioga once again for the audience choice!

For the full symposium recap, check out Floriane O'Keeffe's article on the [EcoEvo blog](#).



### Zoological Museum News

The Andrew Bacon Animal Diversity Award for 2022 has been awarded to JS student Michael Officer. The award is presented in memory of Andrew Bacon who sadly passed away in 2020 a year after he graduated in Zoology. Andrew contributed in many ways to our department, both as a student and particularly during his 3rd year, as a mentor on our museum outreach programme. He is very sadly missed by both staff and students.

## PUBLICATIONS

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Kearney et al. [including J.D. Kong] (2022). Parthenogenesis without costs in a grasshopper with hybrid origins. *Science*, 376, 1110-1114, <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abm1072>

Price et al. [including I. Donohue] (2022) Evolutionary history of grazing and resources determine herbivore exclusion effects on plant diversity. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-022-01809-9>

### Where are they now?

**Ben Morrison**  
Class of Zoology 2020



Ben obtained his B.A in Zoology from Trinity College Dublin, Ireland in 2020. While at University he worked for many years for Trinity's Student Newspaper, The University Times. He has since worked as photo assistant for various Irish and International photographers while also creating and exhibiting work as a visual artist. In January 2022 he attended an artist residency in the Carpathian Mountains in Romania where he explored the transient boundary between wild and man made landscapes. His recent body of work, 'I hear in the Deep Heart's Core' on the topic of personal nature spaces was recently exhibited at Soearth Projects, a newly established art space and eco wellness centre in Kill, Kildare Ireland. In September 2022 he will begin his MA in Photography & Society at the Royal Academy of Art, The Hague (KABK) to further illuminate his work on the boundaries between the natural and man-made.

To see Ben's portfolio, check out his [website!](#)

### Edited by Whitney Parker ([@whitneyk127](#))

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Do you have news to share in the next issue of ZooBytes? Whether staff or student, if you have news (big or small!) get in touch with me at [parkerw@tcd.ie](mailto:parkerw@tcd.ie) using the email subject "ZooBytes."

Are you a Zoology Alumnus doing something interesting? We'd love to hear what you're up to and include you in the next issue's "Where are they now?" section.

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