



NEWSFLASH

October 2024

- Meet the new NLSEB Board member
- Look back at the 6thth Conference of the Netherlands Society for Evolutionary Biology (NLSEB)
- "Internal Conflicts and Organismal Adaptation" STN Workshop on October 14-15, 2024
- ESEB Equal Opportunities Fund

➤ Meet the new NLSEB Board member

Michael F Seidl (Utrecht University) – Secretary

Michael, is an Associate Professor at the Department of Biology at Utrecht University. He is an evolutionary bioinformatician that uses computational methods and data from large-scale (gen)omics experiments to unravel how molecular processes generate genome variation and how this variation, in turn, affects genome organization, functioning, and evolution of eukaryotic microbes.



➤ Look back at the 6th Conference of the Netherlands Society for Evolutionary Biology (NLSEB)

The NLSEB 2024 PhD/postdoc and main meetings took place on **Monday, April 22nd** at Wageningen University and on **Tuesday April 23rd** at Akoesticum in Ede respectively. With more than **100** members and guests attending, the meetings brought our growing community together once again.

The PhD/postdoc meeting offered workshops on "Getting a grip on supervising students" (hosted by **Marieke van Schaik**) and "Principles of great design for science

communication" (hosted by **Peter Moore Fuller** graphic designer and course provider at Infohackit).

At the main NLSEB main meeting, participants could attend plenary talks by plenary talks by **Rosemary Gillespie** (Berkeley), by **Liliana D'Alba** (Naturalis) by **Tom Shimizu** (AMOLF) and by the winner of the 2023 Netherlands Evolutionary Biology Prize 2023 **Shixiong Cheng** (Leiden University). There were further parallel sessions with 18 short talks, poster presentations, a cultural intermezzo by **DansBlock**, and time to socialize and to network.

We are always open to suggestions and ideas that can improve our future meetings! If you would like to contribute with feedback and suggestions, please directly contact our PR and NLSEB meeting liaison, [Vasilis Kokkoris](#).



➤ **“Internal Conflicts and Organismal Adaptation” STN Workshop on October 14-15, 2024**

Dear colleagues,

We are happy to announce that the first workshop for the “Internal Conflicts and Organismal Adaptation” Special Topic Network (STN), funded by the European Society for Evolutionary Biology, will take place on **14-15 October 2024**. This workshop will be held at the Linnaeusborg on the Zernike campus of the University of Groningen, The Netherlands; hybrid support will also be available. The workshop will feature talks by in-person attendees showcasing the diversity of internal conflicts and selfish elements they engender, as well as a variety of group discussions – both general and in “breakout group” format – to work out specific goals for the STN. These discussions will focus on several ongoing efforts within the STN, as well as some topics that we hope will arise organically during the workshop. The overall aim is to establish the longer-term goals for the STN and to outline our way forward to achieve these goals. More information and (free!) registration is available through our website:

InternalConflictsSTN.wordpress.com

We look forward to seeing you in October. If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact us through email (internalconflictsSTN@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

The STN organising committee

Martijn Schenkel, Arvid Ågren, Manus Patten and Nina Wedell

➤ **ESEB Equal Opportunities Fund**

All Dutch evolutionary research institutes seek to increase diversity, but making headway can be challenge. With the help of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology, Europe’s largest evolution society, individuals and teams are able to make a difference by applying for an Initiatives grant through the Equal Opportunities fund. This is an open call for proposals for activities for increased awareness and solutions. Here we highlight the funded programs of recent recipients affiliated with the University of Groningen:

Pinar (Güler) Kohlmeier (2024): Pinar is from Turkey, where government enforced creationist education over evolution the 2000s. In Germany and the Netherlands, she struggled to find a sense of belonging in evolutionary biology. Now at the University of Memphis in the United States, she sees the same pattern, with black students comprising 90% of the student body but underestimating themselves in science, and black PIs being practically non-existent. With her “Evolution for All: Advancing Diversity in Evolutionary Biology” program, she is introducing undergraduates to evolutionary biology while highlighting evolutionists across gender, income, and skin color; setting up

personal mentorships and solution-crowdsourcing for underrepresented graduate students; and helping professors to take on new models of outreach by engaging in social and community problems such as local environmentalism.

Kelley Leung (2023): Being from the United States, Kelley noted a contrast in openness in discussing diversity issues in Europe. Motivated by perpetrators of academic abuse against herself and her colleagues not being held accountable, she joined the Equal Opportunities board of ESEB to make a difference. With her project “Among Us: stories of underrepresented evolutionary biologists,” she will bring awareness to the struggle and marginalization of our colleagues in evolutionary science. Photo gallery shows at large evolution conferences such as JCEB Montreal 2024 and ESEB Barcelona 2025 will tell the stories from our close friends and collaborators. She believes this will help resonate the message that their experiences rank alongside their science in how it impacts their lives and ability to contribute to our field.

Sergio González-Mollinedo (2021): As a student in Guatemala, Sergio protested against corrupt magnates covering up environmental destruction and student deaths. He came to the Netherlands for the prestigious MEME (Mobility European Master in Evolution) program to better equip himself to advance the cause of science-based policy. He was disheartened to hear casual remarks about students from the global south not having the quality of evolution education to be competitive for MEME. In direct counteraction, he founded the “Pre-Master Crash Course in Evolutionary Biology,” which offers global online access to lectures taught by volunteer graduate students and professors across Europe. It also offers personalized mentorship and funding disadvantaged students to apply to graduate programs. With more than a thousand participants each year, they are always seeking more mentors; sign up via their website:

<https://evobiocrashcourse.github.io/index.html> (All authors: Mehdi Khadraoui (AT), Akanksha Singh, Henry North (UK), Saudat Alishayeva (NL), Saphira Schroers (DE), Sebastian Groh (UK), Juliana Rodríguez Fuentes, Sudeshna Chakraborty (NL), Arve Lee Willingham (ES), Juan José Lagos, Lisanne Leenheer (NL), and Sergio González-Mollinedo (NL))

All NLSEB (and other) researchers are invited to submit ideas to increase Equal Opportunity. The next round will be announced autumn 2024 (<https://eseb.org/prizes-funding/equal-opportunities-initiative/equal-opportunities-initiative-fund/>)

*And don't forget to follow us on X: @NLSEB_evolution
and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NLSEB>*

You are receiving this email either because you are a member of the NLSEB or you participated to the NLSEB meeting (main meeting and PhD/Postdoc meeting).



NEWSFLASH **January 2024**

- *NLSEB Meeting 2024, April 23rd @ Akoesticum in Ede! Registration **is now open***
- *NLSEB PhD/Postdoc meeting 2024, April 22nd @ Wageningen University*

NLSEB
Netherlands Society for Evolutionary Biology

2024 CONFERENCE

April 22 PhD/Postdoc meeting @Wageningen University	April 23 Main Meeting @Akoesticum, Ede
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Keynote speakers:
Rosemary Gillespie (Berkeley)
Liliana D'Alba (Naturalis)
Tom Shimizu (AMOLF)

Registration opens
January 12, 2024

Deadline for abstract submission
March 5, 2024

For more information visit nlseb.nl

NLSEB Meeting 2024, April 23rd @ Akoesticum in Ede! Registration is now open

We are excited to welcome you to the **2024 NLSEB** meeting, the 7th meeting of the Netherlands Society for Evolutionary Biology, that will be held on Tuesday **April 23rd** at the Akoesticum in Ede.

The program includes plenary talks by [Rosemary Gillespie \(Berkeley\)](#), by [Liliana D'Alba \(Naturalis\)](#), by [Tom Shimizu \(AMOLF\)](#) and by the winner of the 2023 Netherlands Evolutionary Biology Prize (will be announced during the meeting). The program also includes two parallel presentation sessions, a cultural intermezzo, and plenty of time for poster presentations and socializing with your fellow evolutionary biologists, to strengthen your networking connections and to establish new collaborations. More details will follow, don't forget to regularly check our website: <https://www.nlseb.nl/>

To join us on **April 23rd** register [here!](#)

NLSEB PhD/Postdoc meeting 2024, April 22nd @ Wageningen University

The *NLSEB PhD/Postdoc meeting* will take place on **Monday, April 22nd** at **Wageningen University** (the day preceding the NLSEB 2024 meeting in Ede). Our meeting aims to connect junior researchers in the field of evolutionary biology in the Netherlands, and to spread knowledge on soft skills related to science. There will be flash presentations from all participants to get to know each other, followed by three exciting workshops. The workshop program will be finalized and announced next month. Save the date, and we're looking forward to seeing you there!

And don't forget to follow us on X (former Twitter): @NLSEB_evolution
and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NLSEB>

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