

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/

Conference Title: Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology

Travel Dates: 20th to 25th August 2017

Location: Groningen, The Netherlands

Group member(s): Tom Ratz

Aims: 1) Practicing the oral communication in a scientific context,
2) communicate about my work and have my research group more visible outside my institute, 3) increasing my knowledge about social evolution and more generally in evolutionary biology.

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

ESEB (European Society for Evolutionary Biology) Congress is a biannual conference directed to researchers and students in the fields of evolutionary biology. This year, the attendees were also given the opportunity to meet researchers working in the field of evolutionary medicine and join the ISEMPH meeting (International Society for Evolution, Medicine and Public Health), which was held concurrently in the city of Groningen. ESEB gathered approximately 1700 attendees, 800 poster presentations, 400 talks including 69 invited speakers and several senior researchers who gave plenary talks.

I presented a poster about the results of the first experiment of my PhD project, entitled "Flexible parenting when the cost and benefit of care vary." The poster session has been greatly satisfying to me as my poster attracted a lot of attention and allowed me to discuss with many researchers and students. I had interesting feedbacks and question about my experiment, as well as suggestions for future experiments. I also had the opportunity to attend talks over the entire week and see most of the posters during the other poster sessions.

In general, attending this conference gave me the opportunity to meet many researchers working in my field and increase my scientific network. Several talks have been an excellent source of inspiration for my PhD experiments and future research, giving new ideas or clarifying ways of tackling problems that I could encounter in my current research. Finally, the large diversity of topics and approaches covered by the different sessions of the congress was particularly useful to put my research interests in perspective of the broader field of evolutionary biology and consider more general questions in the field.

Attending ESEBXVI Congress has been possible thanks to the funding provided by the James Rennie Bequest, for which I am very grateful. I am confident that the congress has been beneficial for both my current research as a PhD student and my future career that I wish to pursue in evolutionary biology research.