

# Ben KAWAM

*Behavioural Ecologist*

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## EDUCATION

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APR 2022 - Present	<b>PhD programme at the German Primate Centre, Germany</b> Behavioural Ecology
SEPT 2019 - NOV 2021	<b>Erasmus Mundus Master Programme in Evolutionary Biology (MEME)</b> University of Groningen, Netherlands - University of Montpellier, France Evolutionary Biology
SEPT 2016 - JUN 2019	<b>Bachelor's degree from the University of Namur, Belgium</b> Biological Sciences <i>Summa cum laude</i>
JAN 2019 - JUN 2019	<b>Exchange semester at Uppsala University, Sweden</b>

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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FEB 2021 - NOV 2021	<b>Sociality and injuries in baboons</b> <i>University College London</i> Investigated how sociality predicts incidence of injury and wound healing in chacma baboons, using social network analyses. Included three months of fieldwork in Namibia. SUPERVISION: <i>Alecia J. Carter.</i>
SEPT 2020 - JAN 2021	<b>Effects of predation risk on animal personality</b> <i>University of Groningen</i> Design and implementation of a semi-natural experiment exploring how exposure to predation cues affects personality in three-spined sticklebacks. SUPERVISION: <i>Franz. J. Weissing, Marion Nicolaus &amp; Antonius Groothuis.</i>
MAR 2020 - AUG 2020	<b>Anopheles landscape genetics</b> <i>University of Montpellier</i> Studied the eco-geographical determinants of hybridisation between two species of the <i>Anopheles gambiae</i> complex, using SNP data. SUPERVISION: <i>Michael Fontaine &amp; Carlo Costantini.</i>
SEP 2018 - DEC 2018	<b>Epigenetics and bet-hedging</b> <i>University of Namur</i> Examined how epigenetic mechanisms can underlie a bet-hedging strategy (literature-based project). SUPERVISION: <i>Frédéric Silvestre.</i>

## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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- 2021 | Best Presentation, 2021 PSGB Winter Meeting.
- 2021 | Erasmus+ Traineeship Grant (5000 EUR), funded by the EU.
- 2019 | Erasmus+ Mobility Grant (2000 EUR), funded by the EU.

## PUBLICATIONS

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2020 | Biwer, C., **Kawam, B.**, Chapelle, V., & Silvestre, F. (2020). The role of stochasticity in the origin of epigenetic variation in animal populations. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, 60(6), 1544-1557.

## CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

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2021 | **Health costs and benefits of social connectedness for wild baboons.**  
*Primate Society of Great Britain (PSGB) 2021 Winter meeting.*  
*Talk*

## RELATED EXPERIENCE

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2019 - Present | **Scientific Illustrator**  
Creation of scientific illustrations and logos. Examples [here](#).

MAR 2022 - Present | **Web Designer at Evolutionary Biology Crash Course**  
Co-responsible for Web Design, Graphic Design and Media Communication.

JUL 2018 - AUG 2018 | **Intern at Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Sierra Leone**  
Behavioural observations; animal care; logistic support.

JUL 2017 - AUG 2017 | **Intern at Cikananga Wildlife Sanctuary, Indonesia**  
Behavioural observations; animal care; logistic support.

OCT 2015 - JAN 2016 | **Volunteer at Gibbon Rehabilitation Center, Thailand**  
Educational work; animal care; gibbon tracking.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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FIELDWORK | Behavioural observations (focal, *ad lib.*, scans); ecological and spatial data.

DATA | R, GitHub, QGIS.

INFERENCE | Bayesian and frequentist modelling; Causal Inference.

ILLUSTRATION | Several Adobe programmes, Sony Vegas.

DOCUMENTS | LaTeX, Microsoft Office, R Markdown.

WEB DESIGN | HTML, CSS.

## EXTRACURRICULAR PROJECTS

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2009 - Present | **Photography and video creation**  
*Digital & film photography.* Examples [here](#).  
*Production of videos:* script, images, editing. Examples [here](#) and [here](#).

2013 - 2015 | **Instructor in the Hashomer Hatzair youth movement, Belgium**  
Responsible for education & communication; group management; organisation of events.