Theoni Photopoulou

theoni.photopoulou@gmail.com | Skype: theoni_p
Google Scholar Citations | Research Gate | Publons | My website | Twitter @theoni_p

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS
PhD Biology & Statistics
2008-2012
"Diving and depth use in seals: inferences from telemetry data using regression and random walk movement models"
Jason Matthiopoulos, Len Thomas & Mike Fedak

MRes Marine and Environmental Science
2006-2007 | Distinction
"Behavioural changes of a long-ranging diver in response to oceanographic characteristics"
Martin Biuw & Len Thomas
Prize for best poster presentation

BSc Hons Marine & Environmental Biology
2002-2005 | Upper 2nd Class
Margaret Lang Prize: Best project thesis in Marine Biology

CONTRIBUTIONS

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

I am an associate editor for Methods in Ecology and Evolution (2017-2020) and a review editor for Frontiers in Marine Science Marine Megafauna (2017 onwards)

I have reviewed research articles for over 15 journals. Please see my Publons profile for my reviewer record.

EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS Newton International Fellow
School of Biology
By funding proposal | Mar 2018 - Mar 2020
EMEWS: Effects of ocean properties on the Movement Ecology of Weddell Seals.
PI: Lars Boehme

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Institute for Coastal and Marine Research
Invited to apply for post | Apr 2016 - Mar 2018
Quantifying the impact of environmental change on the movement ecology of marine top predators with applications to marine spatial planning.
PI: Mandy Lombard, Co-PI: Res Altwegg

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Centre for Statistics in Ecology, Environment and Conservation
NRF Scarce Skills Fellowship | May 2013 to Apr 2016
Developing movement models for the analysis of flight in avian predators and diving in marine mammals. PI: Res Altwegg

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Centre for Social Learning and Cognitive Evolution
Invited to apply for post | May 2012 to Apr 2013
I worked with William Hoppitt on the development of statistical methodology for testing social learning in animals. PI: Kevin Laland

PUBLICATIONS

For a full list please see Google Scholar

FUNDING AND AWARDS

For a full list of funding please get in touch

COLLABORATIONS

SECURE FEASIBILITY STUDY
Efficiently modelling non-stationarity in ecological spatial models
Funding received to attend workshop hosted at the Centre for Research into Ecological and Environmental Modelling, University of St Andrews, Scotland. 26-27 Oct 2016.

CLIOTOP TASK TEAM 2016-06
Animal Movement Prediction: Modelling animal movement in a changing climate
Funding received to attend workshop co-hosted at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, UTAS and the CSIRO, Hobart, Tasmania. 23-27 May 2016.

MEMBERSHIP

BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

I am part of the BES Movement Ecology Special Interest Group.
I am one of the vice-secretaries and communications officers.

ECOHMM GROUP

I am part of an international group of researchers working on applications of hidden Markov models in ecology and environmental research.

R-LADIES CAPE TOWN

I set up and am still part of the female specific R user group R-Ladies Cape Town, through which we want to promote gender diversity in the R community.

PERSONAL PROFILE

Date of birth · 30th March 1984
Nationality · Greek & South African
Years post-PhD · 6yrs
Current position · Newton International Fellow
Current base · St Andrews, Scotland

ABOUT ME I was born and raised in Athens, Greece and moved to Scotland in 2002 to study marine and environmental biology at the University of St Andrews. I chose to study biology at undergraduate and enjoyed it immensely. Towards the end of my degree I realised that my skills did not include tools necessary for answering the biological and ecological questions I was most passionate about. As a postgraduate student, I set out to obtain those tools and have been learning about statistics and computation ever since. My passion for the natural world and my love of fieldwork remain as vivid as ever.

I study animal movement using statistical methodology. I like finding new and elegant solutions to questions about the way top predators use their ocean environments. I am also interested in the technological aspects of animal telemetry and what they mean for how we interpret and analyse data.

Studying animal movement and spatio-temporal distribution is interesting to me because it helps us find out where animals go, how they get there and what they do there. Without that information we are not able to learn about how habitat use and preference change over time, how animals interact with human activities, and how climatic change is likely to affect them. I believe strongly in equality and diversity in STEM disciplines and promote it however I can.

FOR MORE DETAILS

For a full list of my up-to-date publications, talks and other research activity please look at Research Gate and my website, and Google Scholar for citations to my work.