



NW European IUSSI Newsletter: December 2019

[Winter meeting 2019](#)



The winter meeting of 2019 was once again hosted by Prof. Paul Eggleton at the Natural History Museum in London and it was an excellent day, with a crowd of about 75 social insect enthusiasts and a broad range of social insect taxa, research questions, and methods represented. Thanks to Paul for hosting!

Thinking a bit outside our social insect box, we had an excellent plenary presentation by Prof. Beth Okamura, Natural History Museum London, on colonial life in bryozoans. As always, we also had a brilliant set of talks and posters. From the student talks, Charlie Durant (University of Leicester) got first prize for her excellent talk on phages in ants, with runners up being Samadi Galpayage (Queen Mary's) on bumble bee play and Veronica Sinotte (University of Copenhagen) on social insect microbiomes. The price for best poster went to Alice Walker (University of Liverpool) for her work on ant effects on savanna herbivory rates and runners up were Rosie Knapp (University of Leeds) on dopamine and queen mandibular pheromone control in honeybees and Hollie Marshall (University of Leicester) on imprinted genes in social insects. Congrats to everyone!

During the business meeting, the most important decisions were to have another one-day meeting in London in 2020, followed by a two-day meeting in 2021, tentatively in Copenhagen. The business meeting also included the Treasurer's report: The finances of the section are healthy and with 20 new members added during the winter meeting, the section now has about 150 members. After an extra year on the post, Elizabeth Duncan (Leeds) stepped down as Treasurer (thanks for all your hard work, Liz!) and Fabio Manfredini (currently Royal Holloway, soon Aberdeen) is the new Treasurer of the section. The President and Secretary discussed several new initiatives to increase visibility of the section, including adding PhD, postdoc/research fellow, and social media representatives to the section committee. A number of people expressed interest in helping develop this over the coming year, so sub-committees are now being formed.

Thanks to everyone who participated and made this another exciting winter meeting!



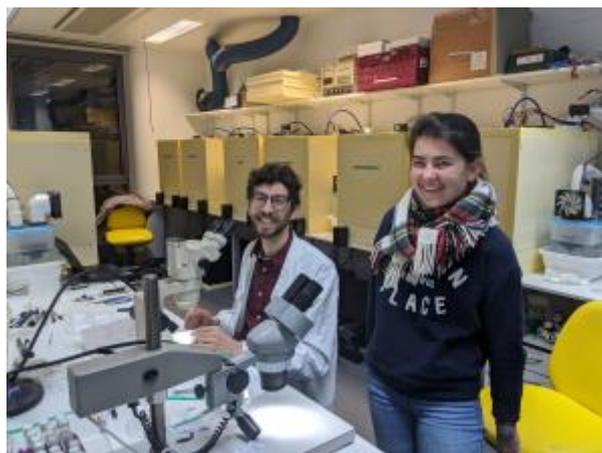
1 - Judges, presentation winners and runners-up, from left to right: Elva Robinson, Samadi Galpayage, Veronica Sinotte, Hollie Marshall, Rosie Knapp, Alice Walker, Charlie Durant, Alessandro Cini, Emeline Favreau, and Mark Brown.

Tales from the lab: Nathalie Stroeymeyt (Uni Bristol)



The Ant Epidemiology Lab is now well settled at the University of Bristol, with a slowly growing team: Nathalie Stroeymeyt (PI), Adriano Wanderlingh (PhD student), Emily House (Master student) and Constance De Parseval (exchange student). Since our move from Switzerland at the beginning of September, we have experienced the joys and setbacks of setting up a new lab, and we are proud to announce that we now have a fully-working lab with 10 automated tracking systems to study social networks and disease transmission in ant colonies!

Nathalie



2 - Nathalie's team hard at work in the lab



3 - Tagged Lasius ants to be tracked automatically. The tags are so small, conventional printers cannot provide the proper resolution for the QR code!

Koos Boomsma elected AAAS Fellow



Prof. Koos Boomsma (University of Copenhagen) has recently received the lifetime distinction of AAAS Fellow, in honor of his invaluable contributions to science. Congratulations Koos!

For more information: <https://www.aaas.org/news/aaas-announces-leading-scientists-elected-2019-fellows>

Become a IUSSI member!



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Current job opportunities



Current vacancies on the section web site: <http://www.iussi.org/NWEurope/vacancies.htm>:

[PhD: Bumblebees and climate change, Imperial College at Silwood Park](#)

[PhD student: Social Immunity in Ants, IST Austria](#)

[Postdoctoral Fellowship: Evolution and Genomics of Attine Ant Fungi, Copenhagen](#)

[PhD: Thermal Adaptation in Native Australian Bees, Monash](#)

[The London NERC Doctoral Training Partnership](#)

Do you have Ph.D. or Postdoc positions coming up? Email nbos [at] bio.ku.dk and we will add them to the newsletter. We also run the INSECTSmal mailing list, which distributes information about job and studentship opportunities, meetings, courses, and calls for information about social insects. See more on the section website: <http://www.iussi.org/NWEurope/INSECTSmal.htm> and send any information to be included (or subscription requests) to INSECTS [at] bio.ku.dk.

Looking for pictures!



We would like to enrich the newsletter with lots of social insect pictures. If you have pretty pictures to share, please send a link to [nbos \[at\] bio.ku.dk](mailto:nbos@bio.ku.dk) and they might just be used for the next newsletter. Credits will be given of course!

[Questions? Contact Us!](#)

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please mail to [nbos \[at\] bio.ku.dk](mailto:nbos@bio.ku.dk).