

## NEWSFLASH - December 2023

- 6th Conference of the Netherlands Society for Evolutionary Biology
- Upcoming meeting of the Center for Urban Ecology and Evolution (CUE2)
- Call for the Netherlands Evolutionary Biology 2023 Prize

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## 6th Conference of the Netherlands Society for Evolutionary Biology

### Mark your calendars!

The 6<sup>th</sup> conference of the Netherlands Society for Evolutionary Biology (NLSEB) will take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (PhD/Postdoc meeting) and 23<sup>rd</sup> (main meeting) of **April 2024**. The main event will take place at **Akoesticum in Ede** while the PhD/Postdoc meeting will take place at Wageningen University.

Registration and abstract submission will open on **January 8**

We have arranged for the following two amazing key-note speakers:

**Liliana D'Alba**, Scientific Researcher, Naturalis - Evolutionary Ecology Group & Guest Professor, Ghent University – Liliana is an Evolutionary Biologist studying the evolution of phenotypic diversity and the ecology of birds and reptiles.

**Tom Shimizu**, Institute for Atomic and Molecular Physics (AMOLF) – Tom aims to link temporal dynamics of sensing and behavior to the constraints imposed by the implementing machinery and evolutionary selection.



## Upcoming meeting of the Center for Urban Ecology and Evolution (CUE2)

On Wednesday, January 24th 2024 the Center for Urban Ecology and Evolution [CUE2](#) organizes a joint symposium with NLSEB in Amsterdam.

We are happy to share that the following two exciting key-note speakers will be joining us:

**Caroline Isaksson (Lund University, Norway) - *From macro- to microscale***

The impacts of urban greenery, pollution and nutrition on birds' performance

During the last twenty years Caroline Isaksson has devoted her main research to understanding the impacts of urbanisation on birds. To tackle the complexity and effect of different urban anthropogenic factors along with species responses she has used a wide repertoire of approaches from experimental to observational. Most of her work has a proximate angle, aiming to understand physiological, epigenetic and/or genetic changes in response to urbanisation. In this talk, she will present some of her group's recent findings linked to the heterogenous urban micro-habitats and nutrition - the devil is in the details.

**Chris D. Thomas (University of York, UK) - *Evolution begets evolution: levels of adaptation in a human-modified world***

Chris Thomas is director of the Leverhulme Centre for Anthropocene Biodiversity. The Centre takes a multidisciplinary perspective on biodiversity change in the Anthropocene. Chris likes to blur the bounds between ecology and evolution, partly because evolutionary and ecological dynamics feed back on one another, and partly because changes in the success of different populations and species (and species traits) also represent evolution - defined as differential survival, reproduction and hence frequencies of different genes, genotypes and phenotypes over time. As such, most of the ecological changes evident in the world today, and the changing composition of ecological communities, can be thought of as [adaptive change](#).

This CUE2-NLSEB event will be held at the auditorium of the O|2 building on the VU-campus at De Boelelaan 1108 in Amsterdam which is within walking distance from NS train station Amsterdam Zuid.

The meeting will be held from **11:00 - 17:00**. After the two key-note talks, we aim for shorter presentations and poster pitches in the afternoon mixed with discussion sessions. Coffee/tea, lunch and drinks will be provided.

In order to know how many of you would like to attend and/or present, **we hope you could register before December 20th 2023** using this [this Google form](#)

We are also looking for extra hands to add more content to the [CUE2 website](#) so please feel free to contact us if you have any suggestions for this.

Barbara Gravendeel & Wouter Halfwerk

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## Call for the Netherlands Evolutionary Biology 2023 Prize


NLSEB will award the Netherlands Evolutionary Biology prize for the best peer-reviewed publication in evolutionary biology published in 2023 by an author affiliated with a Dutch research institution. The prize will be awarded to the first or last author of the selected publication, who will receive **€500** in recognition of the achievement. In addition, the winner will be invited to present the publication in a **plenary lecture** at the annual NLSEB congress in 2024.

All NLSEB members are invited to submit nominations. In order to nominate a first or last author of a publication on evolutionary biology, please send a PDF of the manuscript and a brief motivation (no more than half a page) by e-mail to [prize@nlseb.nl](mailto:prize@nlseb.nl). Deadline for the submission of nominations is January 31, 2024.

Eligible nominations will be evaluated by a jury consisting of Prof. Duur Aanen, Dr. Liedewij Laan and Prof. Barbara Gravendeel, who will be in charge of selecting the winning publication.

The following eligibility criteria apply:

1. Nominated papers must have been published online or in print within the year 2023, in a peer-reviewed scientific journal
2. Papers can only be nominated by members of NLSEB; nominating a paper of your own is allowed. Each member can nominate a maximum of two papers. To become a member click **here**
3. The first/last author of the nominated paper was/were affiliated with a Dutch research institution at the time the research was executed; they do not necessarily need to be NLSEB members
- 4.



**Netherlands Evolutionary Biology Prize**

What is the best paper in evolutionary biology published in 2023 by an author affiliated with a Dutch research institution?

NLSEB members can nominate a colleague – or themselves – for the Netherlands Evolutionary Biology Prize. **Nomination deadline is January 31, 2024**

- 1 Only NLSEB members can nominate a paper!
- 2 Nominated papers must be published online or in print in 2023
- 3 The first/last author of the paper was affiliated with a Dutch research institution

For more information about the nomination procedure and the award visit [nlseb.nl](http://nlseb.nl)

## NEWSFLASH - October 2023

- Message from the new NLSEB President
- Meet the new NLSEB Board members
- Look back at the 5th Conference of the Netherlands Society for Evolutionary Biology (NLSEB)
- 6th Conference of the Netherlands Society for Evolutionary Biology
- New educational content in our NLSEB website
- Upcoming meeting of the Center for Urban Ecology and Evolution (CUE2)
- NLSEB Junior Board successfully organized the second rotating lab visit!
- NLSEB Junior Board Call for new Members

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### Message from the new NLSEB President

*“I thank all members for supporting my election as the third president of NLSEB. I am very happy and honoured to follow up Marcel Visser and Arjan de Visser, who have been building a vibrant community of scientists and teachers of evolutionary biology from diverse backgrounds. My intention is to further contribute to this development in NLSEB, bringing together scientists from diverse disciplines, with the ambition to expand our knowledge and understanding of evolution. Evolutionary biology is key for understanding life, in all its diversity. Within NLSEB, we can learn from each other’s research and expertise, and form collaborations to push the boundaries of our research and teaching. Our annual NLSEB meeting is an important platform for this, as well as our website, roundtables & workshops, and the junior board with the activities they organize. It all contributes to the exchange of knowledge and ideas, and to strengthening the field of evolutionary biology in the Netherlands. In the coming years, we will continue and expand on these activities to make the NLSEB community thrive. “*

Bregje Wertheim



**Image above:** *The new NLSEB president, Bregje Wertheim together with the previous presidents Marcel Visser (left) and Arjan Visser (right)*

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### Meet the new NLSEB Board members

**Kees van Oers** (NIOO-KNAW & WUR) - ESEB liaison



Kees, is a senior researcher and group leader in the department of Animal ecology at the Netherlands Institute of Ecology in Wageningen and special Professor in Animal Personality at Wageningen University. He is an evolutionary behavioural ecologist with interests in how animals behaviourally respond and adapt to rapid changes in their environment and how individuals vary in this. Kees uses genomic and epigenomic analyses to address this question.

**Eric Schranz** (WUR) - Professor Biosystematics- Treasurer



Eric is Chair of the Biosystematics group at Wageningen University. His research interests broadly encompass plant evolutionary biology—from investigating the evolutionary relationships among species, to comparative chromosomal evolution and to the genetic basis of novel traits.



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## Look back at the 5th Conference of the Netherlands Society for Evolutionary Biology (NLSEB)



The **NLSEB 2023 PhD/postdoc and main meetings** took place on **Monday, May 15th** at Wageningen University and on **Tuesday, May 16th** at Akoesticum in Ede respectively. With a record of more than 120 members and guests attending, the meetings were well received by the participants!

The PhD/postdoc meeting offered workshops focusing on early career small grant writing hosted by **Dr. Aniek Ivens** and on how to improv(e) your science hosted by **Dr. Kelley Leung**. The meeting also included an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) panel as well as pitch presentations by all the participants.

At the NLSEB main meeting, participants could attend plenary talks by plenary talks by **Dr. Felicity Jones** (Friedrich Miescher Lab, Tübingen) and by **Dr. Franjo Weissing** (U Groningen) as well as by the Netherlands Evolutionary Biology prize winner of 2022 **Dr. Julian Vosseberg**. There were further parallel sessions with **20** short talks, poster

presentations, a cultural intermezzo by the dramaturg **Wessel Padberg**, and time to socialize and to network ([see the 2023 programme for all the details](#)).

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](#).

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## 6th Conference of the Netherlands Society for Evolutionary Biology

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The 6<sup>th</sup> conference of the Netherlands Society for Evolutionary Biology (NLSEB) will take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (PhD/postdoc meeting) and 23<sup>rd</sup> (main meeting) of **April 2024**. More information about the location and other details will follow soon.

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### New educational content in our NLSEB website

On the NLSEB website, you can find various Resources for education and fun. Here, we collect links to educational resources that may be useful for teaching and outreach activities involving evolution. It includes, for example, an overview of computer resources such as an R application to simulate allele frequency changes under various scenarios, a computer game to simulate adaptation and dispersal in the face of climate change, ideas for workshop activities on the origin and evolution of life, and links to a MOOC series and YouTube clips on evolutionary topics.

Recently, a set of instructions was made available for computer or wet-lab practicals, using [Nasonia parasitoids](#), to teach evolutionary genetics topics such as sex allocation and speciation. This includes data files, instructions and hand-out materials to run these practicals. When people would want to add to these resources by sharing some of theirs, it would be highly appreciated! Please, send us a file or link, so that we can expand this set of resources for the NLSEB community.

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## Upcoming meeting of the Center for Urban Ecology and Evolution (CUE2)

SAVE THE DATE!

On Wednesday, January 24th 2024 the Center for Urban Ecology and Evolution [CUE2](#) organizes a joint symposium with NLSEB in Amsterdam. We welcome anyone interested in adaptations of animals and plants living in cities. There will be presentations by invited speakers and a poster session where attendants can pitch their research.

More information soon!

Barbara Gravendeel & Wouter Halfwerk

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## NLSEB Junior Board successfully organized the second rotating lab visit!



On September 4th, the NLSEB Junior Board invited to the second lab rotation event for evolutionary biologists at Amsterdam Institute for Life and Environment (A-LIFE) at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Many enthusiastic participants listened to captivating talks of PI and PhD speakers of A-LIFE, got behind-the-scenes insights of the facilities, and socialized over lunch and drinks at the student bar. We are looking forward to continuing this series of lab rotations in the future!

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## NLSEB Junior Board Call for new Members

Since several junior members are leaving the board due to the completion of their PhD, we are **welcoming new members!** Our overall aim is to bring together early-career researchers for networking, skill building opportunities and social interactions by organising a wide range of academic activities and events. Currently, we **organise two events annually** including the NLSEB PhD/postdoc meeting, and a Lab Rotation visiting a Dutch university's research facilities. By joining our board you will have the opportunity to **shape the way that our events are held, participate in outreach to junior scientists**, all while receiving ECTS towards your PhD (check with your grad school, if this applies to you). As we are PhD candidates from all over the Netherlands we **meet exclusively virtually**.

If you are interested in being part of this junior board, or know of people in your group/department who may be interested, please, pass on this email and/or contact us directly at [junior\\_board@nlseb.nl](mailto:junior_board@nlseb.nl).



## NEWSFLASH March 2023

- **NLSEB educators meeting (follow-up)**
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Dear NLSEB member,

In January an inter-university educational project was started with the aim of developing knowledge clips for first year evolutionary biology courses. After this very fruitful meeting, the next meeting is planned on Friday March 24th. Then we'd like to further develop more specific format(s) for knowledge clips and (discuss how to) recruit volunteers to record these clips.

We hope to gather a group of people in which each Dutch university (with a course on evolutionary biology) has at least one representative. We especially invite PhD students and postdocs to join us, because we value ideas on education from people at all career stages, and because we want the knowledge clips to represent the diversity of evolutionary researchers in the Netherlands. Please spread the word and invite others as well if you think they could make a good contribution to this project!

For the coming meeting, after short introductory talks on the practical sides of producing knowledge clips, we'll ask your (creative) input that's necessary to develop and eventually shoot the first NLSEB-knowledge-clips!

The meeting will take place from 12:30 – 17:00 hr at the campus of Utrecht University, in the Hugo R. Kruyt building room O1.28. Lunch and drinks will be provided!  
Please fill out the form (link below) if you would like to participate in this meeting! <https://forms.gle/yKLMHRHXCQexE84o6>

Best regards,  
Jelle Zandveld and Hilje Doekes

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**special NEWSFLASH January 2023**

- **Joint NLSEB/BioSB Symposium, 15 Feb 2023**
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- **Joint NLSEB/BioSB Symposium, 15 Feb 2023**

15 February 2023, NLSEB and BioSB will join forces and co-organize a symposium on evolution in and of cell communities at the VU Amsterdam. Prof. Paul Rainey (MPI for Evolutionary Biology, Plön) and 8 other speakers will shed their light on evolutionary processes operating within and among microbial communities, as well as in developing cancer lineages, and participants may present a poster. If you are interested, you can check the program and register until 1 February via [this link!](#)


**BioSB**  
BioSB Hot Topics  
Committee

**NLSEB**

# BioSB & NLSEB Symposium

# Evolution in and of Cell Communities

Date-time: 15/02/2023 (Wed), 9:30-18:00  
O2 building, VU, Amsterdam




 **More info and sign up:**  
Use QR code or go to <https://forms.gle/5C6f2t9KDro#Mu6s9>

10:00 Selection on communities by  
competition between communities  
**Paul Rainey**  
**Sijmen Schoustra**  
**Rinke van Tatenhove-Pel**

13:30 Selection pressure on community members  
arising from community structure  
**Djordje Bajic**  
**Frank Bruggeman**  
**Marjon de Vos**

15:00 Selection within multicellular organisms  
**Enrico Sandro Colizzi**  
**Daniël Miedema**  
**Saskia Suijkerbuijk**

16:30 - 18:00 Poster & Drinks

**Sponsors**  
  
  


## special NEWSFLASH January 2023

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What is the best paper in evolutionary biology published in 2022 by an author affiliated with a Dutch research institution? NLSEB members can nominate a colleague – or themselves – for the Netherlands Evolutionary Biology Prize. There are two more weeks to send in your nominations: deadline is 31 January. The winner receives €500 in recognition of their achievement, plus the opportunity to present their paper in a plenary lecture at the NLSEB 2023 meeting.

- Only NLSEB members can nominate a paper
- Nominated papers must be published online or in print in 2022
- The first/last author of the paper was affiliated with a Dutch research institution

To nominate a paper, please send a PDF of the manuscript and a brief motivation (no more than half a page) by e-mail to [prize@nlseb.nl](mailto:prize@nlseb.nl). We are looking forward to receiving your nominations!

For more information see the poster bellow and also [here](#)

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