

PIET VAN DEN BERG, M.Sc.

PERSONALIA

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Date of birth: 30-06-1984
Birthplace: Rotterdam
Nationality: Dutch



EDUCATION

- Since 2012** **PhD position** in the Theoretical Biology group (University of Groningen), project: *'The genetic and cultural evolution of human social behaviour'*.
- 2006 – 2008** **'Top' Master Evolutionary Biology** at the University of Groningen (*with distinction*). The Top Master programme is a highly selective international research Master programme designed to provide an optimal preparation for a subsequent PhD project.
- **Project 1:** Foraging behaviour in white rhino (Hluhluwe Umfolozi Park, South Africa)
 - **Project 2:** Evolution of cooperation in *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa* (University of Edinburgh)
 - **Project 3:** Genetic evolution vs. cultural evolution (University of Groningen)
- 2003 – 2006** **B.Sc. in Biology** at the University of Groningen.

WORKING EXPERIENCE

- 2010 – 2011** **Researcher** in the Theoretical Biology group (University of Groningen), developing a risk-assessment model for genetically modified crops.
- 2009 – 2010** **Project leader** for the Graduate School of Science (University of Groningen), coordinating the startup of two new Erasmus Mundus M.Sc. programmes.
- 2008 – 2009** **Researcher** in the Evolutionary Psychology group (University of Groningen), developing a simulation model of the evolution of parent-offspring conflict over mate choice.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

- Van den Berg P***, Molleman L*, & Weissing FJ (2015). Focus on the success of others leads to selfish behavior. *PNAS*, **112**(9): 2912-2917.
- Van den Berg P** & Weissing FJ (2015). Evolutionary game theory and personality. In: *Evolutionary Perspectives on Social Psychology* (eds: Zeigler-Hill V, Welling LLM, Shackelford TK), in press.
- Molleman L*, **Van den Berg P***, & Weissing FJ (2014). Consistent individual differences in human social learning strategies. *Nature Communications*, **5**: 3870.
- Van den Berg P**, Fawcett TW, Buunk AP & Weissing FJ (2014). Conflict over resources generates conflict over mate choice: reply to Smaldino and Newson. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, **35**: 157-159.
- Van den Berg P**, Fawcett TW, Buunk AP & Weissing FJ (2013). The evolution of parent-offspring conflict over mate choice. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, **34**: 405-411.
- Van den Berg P**, Molleman L & Weissing FJ (2012). The social costs of punishment. *Beh Brain Sci* **35**: 42-43.
- Kümmerli R*, **van den Berg P***, Griffin AS, West SA & Gardner A (2010). Repression of competition favours cooperation: Experimental evidence from bacteria. *J Evol Biol* **23**: 699-706.

Fawcett, TW, **van den Berg P**, Weissing FJ, Park JH & Buunk AP (2010). Intergenerational conflict over parental investment. *Beh Brain Sci* **33**: 23-24.

* Both authors contributed equally to this manuscript

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Van den Berg P & Fawcett TW (2013). Evolution and bad boyfriends. *The New York Times*, 13 October 2013.

MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2015** For 'Focus on the success of others leads to selfish behavior' (*PNAS*), coverage in (among others): *Dagblad van het Noorden (Netherlands)*, *International Business Time (Australia edition)*, *Times of India (India)*, *Quo (Mexico)*, *Viva (Indonesia)*, and various websites.
- 2013** For 'The evolution of parent-offspring conflict over mate choice' (*Evolution & Human Behaviour*), coverage in (among others): *Daily Mail (UK)*, *Daily Telegraph (UK)*, *BBC Radio (UK)*, *Time Magazine (USA)*, *Huffington Post (USA)*, *Discovery Channel (USA)*, *Fox News (USA)*, *Die Welt (Germany)*, *Times of India*, *First Post (India)*, *Courier News (Australia)*, *Panorama (Italy)*, *Metro (Netherlands)*, *Trouw (Netherlands)*, *La Nacion (Costa Rica)*, *La Tercera (Chile)* and on various websites in 25 countries.

TEACHING

- 2014 – 2015** **Supervisor** of an M.Sc. project (six months) on the effect of immigration on cultural change.
- 2014** **Supervisor** of an M.Sc. project (six months) on including psychological mechanisms underlying social learning in cultural evolution models. (*together with Developmental Psychology group in Groningen*)
- 2014** **Lecturer** in the massive online open course 'Decision making in a complex and uncertain world' (www.futurelearn.com/courses/complexity-and-uncertainty).
- 2013 – 2015** **Lecturer** in the B.Sc. course 'Human Behavioural Biology'. Also designed and organized a practical about social behaviour for ~100 students.
- 2012 – 2013** **Lecturer** in the M.Sc. course 'Theoretical Ecology and Evolution' (University of Groningen). Also designed and organized a practical about social behaviour.
- 2009 – 2014** **Individual supervisor** of various B.Sc. students in writing their B.Sc. thesis (University of Groningen).

TALKS

- Mar 2015** **Invited talk for the Developmental Psychology group** (Groningen, Netherlands): 'Evolutionary game theory and personality'
- Mar 2015** **Invited talk for the Behavioral Biology group** (Groningen, Netherlands): 'Focus on the success of others leads to selfish behavior'.
- Jan 2015** **Invited talk for The Centre for Decision Research and Experimental Economics (CeDEx)** (Nottingham, UK): 'Human cooperation in heterogeneous groups: variation begets variation'.
- 2014** **Conference 'New economic thinking for an evolving financial system'** (Dutch Central Bank, Amsterdam, Netherlands): 'Lessons from biology'. (*together with Franjo Weissing*)
- 2013** **Workshop 'Inclusive fitness and game theory'** (Arolla, Switzerland): 'Consistent individual differences in human social learning strategies'.
- 2013** **Symposium 'The evolution of responsive strategies'** (Groningen, Netherlands): 'Covariation of social learning and cooperative strategies'.

GRANTS

- 2013** **Research grant of € 4,200 from the J.L. Dobberke Foundation** to do an experiment.

- 2012 **Research grant of € 4,000 from the J.L. Dobberke Foundation** to do an experiment.
2011 **Ph.D. grant from the Graduate Programme of the Dutch Science Foundation (NWO).**

ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2013 Organizer of symposium '**Psychology meets biology: mechanisms underlying development and evolution**' (Groningen, Netherlands).

PEER-REVIEWING EXPERIENCE

For the journal *Review of General Psychology*.

SKILLS

Languages: Dutch (mother tongue), English (fluent), German (conversational)
Programming: C++, Python, R, Z-Tree

Last updated: March 2015