

Konatsu Ono



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Statement of Interests

My research focus is vocal ontogeny across species, broadly animal communication, as I think this knowledge facilitates interspecies understanding and public empathy towards animals. I approach this through the inter-disciplines of ethology, linguistics, and Indigenous knowledge.

Education

- **University of Zürich**
PhD in Evolutionary Biology (2024-Present)
- **University of Zürich**
MA in Evolutionary Language Science (2023)
Minor in Biology
- **University of California, Davis**
BSc in Animal Biology (2020)

Research/Experience

University of Zürich – Physiological Synchronization during Joint-Action

Prof. Judith Burkart, Evolutionary Cognition Group

Prof. Simon W. Townsend, Comparative Communication and Cognition Group

Master student: Master's thesis on the physiological synchronizations in cooperatively breeding common marmosets during joint-actions. Data collection through thermo-imaging. Additionally investigating multimodal communication used to facilitate and end a joint-action, using video and audio recordings. (9/2022-12/2023)

University of Zürich/Université de Lausanne – Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Konatsu Ono & Prof. Marcelo Sánchez-Villagra,

Co-organizer: a project aiming to be informed by human, natural, and Indigenous sciences on the topic of communication among organisms. In turn, examining these ideas through the standards of empirical science and compiling them to create one narrative that supports each other. Paper submitted. (1/2022-Present)

UC Davis/University of Bristol– Mammal Coloration Research

Prof. Tim Caro Lab

Research team member: involved in a long-term theoretical project studying conspicuous mammal coloration. Have collected and compiled data on coat coloration, ecology and behavior. Thereafter using phylogenetic analyses to derive patterns in the evolution of mammal coloration. (5/2018-1/2022)

UC Davis – Fieldwork with PutahCreek Nestbox Highway

UC Davis Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology

Intern: went into the field and monitored songbird development from nest building to fledging stages. Learned to identify bird species, capture birds, bird handling, and color-banding. (3/2018-6/2018)

Published Works

Stoll, S., van Schaik, C., Burkart, J.M., **Ono, K.**, Phaniraj, N., Song, Z. and Bickel, B., (submitted 2025). From vocal homophily to vocal repertoire flexibility: Unravelling the socioecological drivers of language evolution.

<https://doi.org/10.32942/X2V06N>

Caro, T., Brockelsbury, K., Ferrari, A., Koneru, M., **Ono, K.**, Rowe, Z.W., Touche, E., Walker, H. and Stankowich, T., 2022. On the evolution of distinctive natal coat coloration in primates. *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*, 177(3), pp.530-539.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/ajpa.24468>

Howell, N., Sheard, C., Koneru, M., Brockelsby, K., **Ono, K.** and Caro, T., 2021. Aposematism in mammals. *Evolution*, 75(10), pp.2480-2493.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/evo.14320>

Caro, T., Brockelsby, K., Ferrari, A., Koneru, M., **Ono, K.**, Touche, E. and Stankowich, T., 2021. The evolution of primate coloration revisited. *Behavioral Ecology*, 32(4), pp.555-567.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/beheco/arab029>

Grants

GRC short grant: Paid Research Assistant

Funding for a research assistant wage (01/2025-12/2025)

GRC short grant: UZH Bioacoustics Community Meetings

Funding for invited guest speakers' transportation, accommodation, and after talk Aperos (12/2024-11/2025)

Academic Conferences

Gesellschaft Fuer Primatologie 2024, University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany

Poster Presenter: Physiological synchrony during cooperation of marmoset monkeys-methodological challenges (2024)

Science, Technology & Society, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

Panel convenor and panelist: Interspecies Communication (2023)

College of Biological Sciences BioLaunch, UC Davis, Davis, California

Invited panelists: represented undergraduate researchers (2019)

Scientific Outreach and Teaching

- UZH teaching assistant: Lecturing and exam assistance in BIO216, BIO211, BIO115 (Fall 2024-current)
- IEA Department outreach volunteer: Science and Nature Festival 2024, Zürich, Switzerland (24/6/2024)

Skills/Certifications

- Fluent in English and Japanese. Advance level German Proficiency
- Programs and Software: R, ArcGIS, RavenLite, BORIS, Ethovision, Avisoft, Matlab, Praat, ELAN
- Laboratory Animal Handling certified by LTK UZH & FELASA (2022)