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DoLS Travel Award Report

Dear DoLS Team,

I was awarded with a DoLS travel award this autumn to participate in the conference “Community ecology for the 21st Century” in Portugal from 17th-19th October 2016. During this conference, I presented a poster on “Evolutionary dynamics of diverse bacterial communities in nature” and participated in a workshop on modelling ecological networks using various methods in R Statistical Environment.

The conference was very interesting to me. I heard lots of very interesting talks, as several highly recognized keynote speakers were present. Of particular interest for me was to hear Dr. Dominique Gravel’s talk, as his works are very influential on what I do. A special highlight for me was the opportunity to meet him in person and talk over some of his recent research. He also kindly provided the slides of his talk so I can further follow up with this research. Further, I heard various other very interesting presentations, which made me think in new directions. In sum, the conference and talks open up new ways for me to plan my future research and I was able to establish new professional networks.

The workshop I attended was about modelling species interaction networks. The workshop was very useful to me, provided all necessary codes to apply them to my own data set, and clarified several open questions I had. My hope is now to use this knowledge in my upcoming publications and make them even stronger.

In sum, the award enabled me to participate in a great conference, opened the opportunity for new collaboration and provided very useful knowledge in terms of new methods.

With kind regards,

Dr. Thomas Scheuerl

Silwood Park Campus,

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