



NW European IUSSI Newsletter:  
November 2019

## [Last reminder] Important IUSSI membership details



In order for students to apply for funding to attend the international IUSSI meeting, students have to have been a member for at least one year prior to the application deadline. However, students beginning their studies in October 2019 and registering as a member in October will pay their 2020 fees, and still be counted as being a member since 2019.

A significant perk is that students who register this year are eligible to apply for travel -funding for the EURO IUSSI 2020 in Toulouse, France.

Having a subscription to IUSSI is a great way to support the world of social insect research. Membership is cheap (£7.50 for students, £15 for full members). One additional perk of being a member is that it provides large discounts when registering for IUSSI conferences. Registrations can be done here: <http://www.iussi.org/NWEurope/subs.htm>.

## [Last reminder] Winter meeting 2019



Please join us for the annual Winter meeting 2019, which will be organized by Seirian Sumner and Paul Eggleton. It will be a one day meeting taking place on the 16th of December at the Natural History Museum London. Details on specific location to come.

This year's plenary speaker will be Professor Beth Okamura, Natural History Museum London (<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/about-science/staff-directory/life-sciences/b-okamura/index.html>), who will speak on *A passion for colonial animals*.

Registration is on site and fees are:

- £10 student members
- £20 regular members
- £27.50 student, non-members (includes membership fee for 2019)
- £35 regular non-members (includes membership fee for 2019).

The registration fee covers participation and coffee breaks with snacks.

We encourage you to also pay your membership for 2020 (£7.50 for student members, £15 for regular members). **Please bring exact change.**

If you would like to present a poster or give a talk, please send an abstract as a Word document to [mpoulsen@bio.ku.dk](mailto:mpoulsen@bio.ku.dk) no later than the **30th of November 2019**. The organizing committee will shortly thereafter make a decision on who will be selected for talks and inform speakers and poster presenters. A final program will be sent circulated approximately one week before the meeting.

The NW European IUSSI winter meeting is a great opportunity to see and/or present your work, and afterwards grab a beer to meet your fellow scientists!

## Music inspired by bees



All sales to charity  for bee conservation

Professor Last Chittka (Queen Mary University of London) is not only a great scientist, it turns out he can sing as well! He has recently released an album with his band the Killer Bee Queens, named *Strange Flowers*. Each and every song is inspired by bees. The album can be listened to for free here (<https://killerbeequeens.bandcamp.com/releases>), and can be bought using the same link. 100% of the proceeds will go to the bee conservation charity Buglife, which works to protect insects and their habitats, as well as raise awareness for the importance of insects.

## Tales from the lab: Social Evolution Course 2019



Michael Poulsen, Chris Pull and Nick Bos organized a Social Evolution PhD course at the University of Copenhagen from 4-8 November. The course was attended by 26 students from all over the world, and featured lectures by Ashleigh Griffin, Elli Leadbeater, Nathalie Stroeymeyt, Chris Pull, David Nash, Michael Poulsen and Koos Boomsma. Topics covered were social evolution, communication & cognition, social immunity, social organization, mutualism & parasitism, the history of social evolution research, as well as the rise of -omics in social evolution research.

Things were learned, networks were built and pizzas were shared. The course went very well and ended up with a 100% approval rating! The idea is to organize the course again in two years, so updates on that will follow in due time.



*1 - All attendants of the course in one room!*

## Current job opportunities



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

[Assistant Professor / Junior Group Leader: Evolution, Behavioral Ecology and/or Genomics of \(Social\) Insects, Mainz](#)

[PhD: "Theory of social evolution: adaptation of genes, individuals and groups", St. Andrews](#)

[Graduate Position: Ant Gene Evolution, Florida](#)

**[PhD: Self-assembly in weaver ants, Macquarie, Australia](#)**

[PhD & Research Associates: Social Insect Collective Behaviour, Macquarie & Monash, Australia](#)

[MSc: Weaver ants as natural pest control, Sabah, Malaysia](#)

[The London NERC Doctoral Training Partnership](#)

[PhD: Bee-Plant Interactions, Munich](#)

[Postdoc: Bee-Plant Interactions, Munich](#)

[Post-doctoral Researcher: Bee biology, Jiangxi Agricultural University](#)

[PhD Positions: Epigenome-to-Phenome of Bumble Bee Thermal Tolerance, Alabama](#)

[PhDs in ecology and evolution, University of Lausanne, Switzerland](#)

[PhD studentships, IST, Austria](#)

Do you have Ph.D. or Postdoc positions coming up? Mail [nbos \[at\] bio.ku.dk](mailto:nbos@bio.ku.dk) and we will add them to the next 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](mailto:INSECTS@bio.ku.dk)

Looking for pictures...



We thought it would be fun 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)