

# CHRISTINA MILLER

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## SUMMARY

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I am a PhD student at the University of Queensland in the Biological Sciences department studying the genetic basis of phenotypic plasticity under the supervision of Dr Katrina McGuigan and co-supervision of Professor Craig Franklin. My previous research has focused on adaptation to environmental change, particularly looking at animal behaviour, morphology, and microhabitat divergence. I have experience working in lab conditions looking at physiology, and conducting field work in many different environments.

## EDUCATION

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- 2018-current      PhD Biological Sciences, *University of Queensland, AU.*
- Thesis title: *The genetic basis of phenotypic plasticity across a thermal gradient*
- 2014-2015      MSc Animal Behaviour, *University of Exeter, UK*
- Modules: *Advances and Methods in Animal Behaviour; Advanced Statistics; Current Research Issues; Behavioural Research Skills.*
- Thesis title: *Evolutionary Consequences of Interspecific Competition: Anolis sagrei and A. cristatellus in recent secondary contact*
- 2010-2013      BSc (Hons) Psychology, *Birmingham City University, UK*
- Modules Included: *Biological Psychology, Sexual Selection, Learning and Memory.*
- Dissertation title: *Colour me beautiful: Innate or learned red attractions between the sexes.*

## PUBLICATIONS

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- **Miller, C. L.** (2017). Morphological and roosting variation in the dwarf chameleon *Brookesia stumpffi* between primary, secondary, and degraded habitats in Nosy Be, Madagascar. *Journal of Herpetology, Conservation and Biology* 12(3): 599-605.
- Stroud, J., Heathcote, R., **Miller, C.L.**, et al. Complex character displacement: The result of multiple ecological and behavioural mechanisms. *In Prep.*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- April – Present      Research Assistant, *Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University, MA, USA.*
- May – June 2017      · Carried out field work by catching Brown Anoles (*Anolis sagrei*) using the noose method, and after processing them, releasing them onto smaller cays with different thermal environments.  
· Conducted laboratory measurements of physiological and morphological variables aimed to investigate thermal adaptation in *A. sagrei* on Great Exuma, Bahamas.  
· Physiology measurements included measuring their critical thermal minimum temperature, panting threshold, upper voluntary temperature, and metabolic rate. Temperatures were measured using a digital thermometer.  
· Measuring the lizard's morphology included scanning them, weighing them, measuring using calipers, and taking photographs of their dewlap size.
- March – September 2016      Assistant Research Officer, *Frontier- The Society of Environmental Exploration*  
· Lead research assistants in abundance and biodiversity surveys collecting data for a wider conservation related study. This mainly involved visual encounter surveys along transects.  
· Wrote up reports of these surveys and the conservation implications.  
· Carried out a personal research project on the morphological and roosting variation in *Brookesia stumpffi* among primary, secondary, and degraded habitats. This involved measuring the chameleon's morphology in the field using analog calipers and reporting the height and substrate they were roosting on.
- May – September 2015      MSc Dissertation Research, *University of Exeter*  
· Managed my research project on the evolutionary consequences of interspecific competition in two *Anolis* lizard species.  
· Attained two grants from the university to cover flight costs to Miami where the research was conducted.  
· Designed and altered methods used, was trained on collecting morphology data and dewlap colour data, and trained others in conducting behavioural observations and the Point-Centered Quarter method for habitat selection data. This research will be used in collaboration with a larger study.
- April 2015      Research Project, *University of Exeter, Lundy Island, UK*  
· Investigated whether tide affects foraging and agonistic behaviours in the Eurasian oystercatcher.  
· Gained experience using ethograms and analysing data for behavioural studies.  
· Developed the research project as part of a team and enhanced methods of conducting behavioural research and analytical skills
- September - December 2014      Internship on pheasant conservation, *University of Exeter*  
· Monitored the behaviour of the birds using ethograms and worked in teams to use GPS satellite tracking on the birds.  
· Analyzed photos from camera traps we had placed in the field.

## TEACHING, OUTREACH, AND VOLUNTEER WORK

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- November 2016-  
April 2018
- Biology Teacher, *Now Education*
- In between other positions, I work as a supply biology teacher in a variety of schools.
  - I have also organized field trips to nature parks for the students and conducted small practical lessons with them.
- July – September  
2017
- Science Leader, *British Exploring Society*
- Submitted proposals of citizen science research and implemented these in the field with volunteers. These included; camera traps, mammal traps, transects, and tracking to identify the diversity of the Manu region of the Amazon.
  - Trained volunteers on basic first aid, how to use machetes, mattocks, and rope work (jungle training).
  - Lead a team of 10 volunteers, aged 16-23, through the Peruvian Jungle, along with an adventure leader. This involved setting up fly camps, sleeping in hammocks, drinking from streams and cooking using gas canisters.
  - We had a week in the small village Salvación, where we took part in community teaching of why we come to the jungle and why it is important to keep the rainforest.
  - Supervising one of the volunteers on writing a review on camera traps and writing up other research for the British Exploring Society's journal.
  - I have been nominated for the Watson new leader of the year award and received the John Muir award.
- March –  
September 2016
- Assistant Research Officer, *Frontier- The Society of Environmental Exploration*
- Taught research assistant's biodiversity survey techniques and trained them in handling chameleons and non-digital caliper use.
  - Taught and graded Tropical Conservation BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council) qualifications.
  - Conducted and lead abundance and diversity surveys on reptiles, birds, butterflies, and Lemurs
  - Ran one day experience days where I would teach a topic and conduct a practical lesson.

## GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

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Research Training Scholarship (across three years), University of Queensland	81, 246 AUD
Research Training Scholarship Tuition fees, University of Queensland	Tuition fees and health care
Small Research Grant, Royal Society of South Australia (Declined)	1500 AUD
Research Grant, Exeter University	180 GBP