

# Dr. E. Yağmur Erten

(PRONOUNCED: YAA-MUUR EHR-TEN)

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## Professional experience

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### Assistant Professor

Mar. 2024–

UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

### SNSF Postdoctoral Researcher

Feb. 2022–Jan. 2024

UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ

Advisor: Dr. Lutz Fromhage

### Postdoctoral Researcher

Feb. 2021–Dec. 2021

UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH

Advisor: Prof. Hanna Kokko

## Education

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### PhD, Evolutionary Biology

2021

UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH

Advisor: Prof. Hanna Kokko, “Life History Evolution under Cancer Risk”

### MSc, Evolutionary Biology

2015

UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN, *Cum Laude* & UNIVERSITY OF MONTPELLIER

(ERASMUS MUNDUS MASTER PROGRAMME MEME)

- Advisor: Prof. Franz J. Weissing (Groningen), “Cultural evolution in a population with migration: the effect of acculturation preferences and social learning strategies”
- Advisors: Dr. Samuel Alizon & Dr. Sébastien Lion (Montpellier), “Parasite evolution in heterogeneous contact networks”
- External semester: Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich (Spring 2014)

### BSc, Molecular Biology & Genetics

2013

ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Exchange: University of Strasbourg (2010–2011)

## Publications

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<sup>†</sup>Equal contributions, \* First or co-first author (7/11), Citations: 264 (Google Scholar)

### PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

\* [8] **Erten E.Y.**, Tollis M. & Kokko H. (2025). Shrinking to bird size with dinosaur-level cancer defences: Evolution of cancer suppression over macroevolutionary time *PLOS Computational Biology*. doi:[10.1371/journal.pcbi.1013432](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1013432)

\* [7] de Vries C. <sup>†</sup>, **Erten E.Y.** <sup>†</sup> & Kokko H. (2023). Does symmetry preclude the evolution of senescence? A comment on Pen & Flatt 2021. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 290: 20221101. doi:[rspb.2022.1101](https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2022.1101)

[6] Majic P., **Erten E.Y.** & Payne J.L. (2022). The adaptive potential of non-heritable somatic mutations. *The American Naturalist*, 200(6), 755–772. doi:[10.1086/721766](https://doi.org/10.1086/721766)

[5] Aubier, T.G., Galipaud, M., **Erten E.Y.** & Kokko, H. (2020). Transmissible cancers and the evolution of sex under the Red Queen hypothesis. *PLOS Biology*, 18(11): e3000916. doi:[10.1371/journal.pbio.3000916](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3000916)

\* [4] **Erten E.Y.** & Kokko, H. (2020). From zygote to a multicellular soma: body size affects optimal growth strategies under cancer risk. *Evolutionary Applications*, 13, 1593–1604. doi:[10.1111/eva.12969](https://doi.org/10.1111/eva.12969)

[3] Cliff O.M., Harding N., Piraveenan M., **Erten E.Y.**, Gambhir M., Prokopenko M. (2018). Investigating Spatiotemporal Dynamics and Synchrony of Influenza Epidemics in Australia: An Agent-Based Modelling Approach. *Simulation Modelling Practice and Theory*, 87, 412–431. doi:[10.1016/j.simpat.2018.07.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.simpat.2018.07.005)

\* [2] **Erten E.Y.**, van den Berg P., Weissing F.J. (2018). Acculturation orientations affect the evolution of a multicultural society. *Nature Communications*, 9(1), 58. doi:[10.1038/s41467-017-02513-0](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-017-02513-0)

\* [1] **Erten E.Y.**, Lizier J., Piraveenan M., Prokopenko M. (2017). Criticality and information dynamics in epidemiological models. *Entropy*, 19(5), 194. doi:[10.3390/e19050194](https://doi.org/10.3390/e19050194)

## PREPRINTS

[2] Young E.A., **Erten E.Y.**, Postma E., Lummaa V., van der Vegt B., de Bock G.H., & Dugdale H.L. (2025). Genetic variation in life-history traits is not correlated with estrogen-receptor positive breast cancer risk. *bioRxiv*. doi:[10.1101/2025.06.26.661731](https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.06.26.661731)

\* [1] **Erten E.Y.** & Kokko H. (2021). Cancer risk and sexual conflict as constraints to body size evolution. *bioRxiv*. doi:[10.1101/2021.01.09.425980](https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.01.09.425980)

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

\* [1] **Erten E.Y.** & Kokko, H. (2019). Diverse ways to think about cancer: What can we learn about cancer by studying it across the tree of life? *Mètode Science Studies Journal-Annual Review*, (10). doi:[10.7203/metode.10.14593](https://doi.org/10.7203/metode.10.14593) (Peer-reviewed)

## Awards, Grants & Scholarships

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### ENLIGHT Thematic Networks (ETN)

ENLIGHT

2024

Consortium member; 150000 EUR

### Postdoc.Mobility Grant

SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

2021

Single applicant; 103020 CHF

### Best student talk (third place)

BIOLOGY19 CONFERENCE

2019

100 CHF

### GRC grant to organize “Modelling Ecology & Evolution Zurich” Conference

UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH

2018

Main applicant; 6601 CHF

### Engineering and Information Technologies Research Scholarship (EITRS)

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

2016 (discontinued)

3-year PhD stipend & tuition

## Teaching Experience

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### Lecturer, University of Groningen

2024-

- Evolutionary Processes (coordinator and co-lecturer; 2025-)
- Evolutionary Medicine: Diseases of Affluence (co-lecturer; 2025-)
- Python Programming for Biologists (co-lecturer; 2025)
- Modelling Life (co-lecturer; 2025-)
- Programming C++ for Biologists (co-lecturer; 2024)
- Evolutionary Theory (co-lecturer; 2024)
- Skills for Biology 2: Quantitative Research Methods (co-lecturer; 2024)
- Ecological and Evolutionary Modelling (co-lecturer; 2024)

### Lecturer, University of Jyväskylä

2023

- Philosophy and Ethics of Science (co-lecturer; 2023)
- Evolutionary ecology modelling (co-lecturer; 2023)

### Teaching assistant, University of Zurich

2017-2020

- Exploitation of Renewable Resources (2020)
- Programming in Biology (2017)
- Data Analysis in Biology (2017)

### Tutor, University of Sydney

2016

- Management of Project Organizations (2016)
- System Dynamics Modelling (2016)

### Undergraduate assistant student, Istanbul Technical University

2010

- General Biology II Laboratory (2010)

## Supervision

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### PhD Supervision

- Gaurav Athreya (co-supervised with Prof. Hanna Kokko); 2024-)

### MSc Project Supervision

- Arturo Comin Lucio; Mar.-Jul. 2025)
- Shrinath Narayanan (co-supervised with Prof. Hanna Kokko); 2024-); Feb.-Sep. 2021)

### BSc Project Supervision

- Flora Murekoezy-Kis; Apr.-Jul. 2025)

### MSc Colloquium Supervision

- Ef Fiotodimitraki; Jan.-Feb. 2026)

### Other

- Miray Yigit (BSc internship); Jun.-Jul. 2021)

## Presentations

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### INVITED DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS

University of Bern – Talk	May 20 2025
City, University of London Dept. of Mathematics Seminar Series – Virtual Talk	Jan. 31 2023

### CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS (CONTRIBUTED)

Congress of European Society of Evolutionary Biology (ESEB) – Talk	Aug. 17-22 2025
Internal Conflicts STN Workshop – Talk	Oct 14-15 2024
Evolutionary Demography Society Annual Meeting 9 – Lightening Talk	Jul 31-Aug 2 2024
Mathematical Models in Ecology and Evolution (MMEE) – Talk	Jul 15-18 2024
MPI Evolutionary Transitions in Individuality Workshop – Talk	May 22-26 2023
Wildlife Cancer Workshop – Talk	May 9-10 2023
Evolutionary Demography Society Annual Meeting 8 – Lightening Talk	Mar. 29-31 2023
Oikos Finland Conference – Talk	Feb. 14-15 2023
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Symposium Turkey (EEBST) – Talk	Sep. 7-9 2022
Congress of European Society of Evolutionary Biology (ESEB) – Poster	Aug. 14-19 2022
Evolution Conference – Virtual Talk	Jun. 21-25 2021
Evolutionary Demography Society Annual Meeting 7 – Virtual Talk	Oct. 6-11 2020
Biology20 Conference – Talk	Feb. 6-7 2020
Congress of European Society of Evolutionary Biology (ESEB) – Talk	Aug. 20-24 2019
International Society of Ecology and Evolution of Cancer Conference – Poster	Jul. 17-19 2019
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Symposium Turkey (EEBST) – Talk	Jul. 10-12 2019
Biology19 Conference – Talk	Feb. 7-8 2019
Evolution 2018: II Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology – Poster	Aug. 19-22 2018
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Symposium Turkey (EEBST) – Talk	Jul. 18-20 2018
Biology18 Conference – Poster	Feb. 15-16 2018
Congress of European Society of Evolutionary Biology (ESEB) – Poster	Aug. 20-25 2017
Mathematical Models in Ecology and Evolution (MMEE) – Poster	Jul. 10-12 2017
International Congress for Tropical Medicine and Malaria (ICTMM) – Poster	Sep. 18-22 2016
Mathematical Models in Ecology and Evolution (MMEE) – Poster	Jul. 8-10 2015

### DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS & OTHER EVENTS

REACT Online Seminar Series – Talk	Sep 17 2025
University of Groningen GELIFES Seminar Series – Talk	Nov 7 2024
University of Groningen GELIFES Theory Seminar Series – Talk	May 28 2024
University of Jyväskylä Dept. of Bio. and Env. Sciences Darwin Meetings – Talk	May 20 2022
University of Jyväskylä Dept. of Bio. and Env. Sciences Research Seminar Series – Talk	Mar. 10 2022

University of Zurich URPP 9th Annual Retreat – Talk	Sep. 16-17 2021
MEME Webinar Series – Virtual Talk	Feb. 11 2021
University of Zurich URPP 8th Annual Retreat – Virtual Talk	Nov. 30-Dec. 1 2020
Australian National University Ecology & Evolution Webinar Series – Virtual Talk	Sep. 24 2020
Turkish Society of Ecology & Evolution Webinar Series – Virtual Talk	Jul. 24 2020
University of Zurich URPP 7th Annual Retreat – Talk	Sep. 11-13 2019
University of Zurich URPP Site Visit – Talk	May 28 2019
University of Zurich URPP 6th Annual Retreat – Talk	Sep. 4-8 2018
Zurich Interaction Seminar – Talk	Apr. 23 2018
University of Zurich BEEES Seminar Series – Talk	Nov. 11 2017
University of Zurich URPP 5th Annual Retreat – Talk	Sep. 5-7 2017
University of Sydney Research Conversazione – Research display	Oct. 26 2016
Westmead Hospital Week – Poster	Aug. 24-26 2016

## Organisation

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<b>ESEB symposium “Ageing outside of the box: insights from unusual and non-model species”</b>	19 Aug. 2025
BARCELONA, SPAIN	
<b>MMEE mini-symposium “Expanding theoretical perspectives on senescence”</b>	18 Jul. 2024
VIENNA, AUSTRIA	
<b>ESEB symposium “Aging &amp; Cancer through the Lens of Evolution”</b>	24 Aug. 2019
TURKU, FINLAND	
<b>Modelling Ecology &amp; Evolution Zurich (MEEZ) Conference</b>	27-28 Jun. 2019
ZURICH, SWITZERLAND	

## Other Research Experience

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<b>Research project, University of Sydney</b>	Mar. 2016 - Dec. 2016
• “Agent-based modelling of epidemiological processes” (Advisor: Prof. Mikhail Prokopenko)	
<b>Research project, LMU Munich &amp; Max Planck Institute for Ornithology</b>	Mar. 2014 - Jul. 2014
• “The effect of personality and perceived predation risk on incubation behaviour of great tit <i>Parus major</i> ” (Advisor: Prof. Niels Dingemanse)	

## Outreach

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<b>Public Outreach Talk in REACT Workshop ”Modern Perspectives on the Biology of Ageing”</b>	Nov 6 2025
GRONINGEN, THE NETHERLANDS	
<b>Talk in Pint of Science 2024</b>	May 14 2024
GRONINGEN, THE NETHERLANDS	
<b>Lecture in Researchers’ Night</b>	Sep. 29 2023
JYVÄSKYLÄ, FINLAND	
<b>Lecture in Researchers’ Night</b>	Sep. 30 2022
JYVÄSKYLÄ, FINLAND	
<b>Scientific speed-dating in Biology20</b>	Feb. 7 2020
FRIBOURG, SWITZERLAND	
<b>Talk in Pint of Science 2019</b>	May 22 2019
ZURICH, SWITZERLAND	

## Scientific speed-dating in Biology18

NEUCHATEL, SWITZERLAND

Feb. 14 2018

## Tutor in Girls' Programming Network (GPN) Coding & Arduino workshop

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Oct. 30 2016

## Other Academic Contributions

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- Secretary and Board Member of the Evolutionary Demography Society (Oct. 2022-present)
- Member of the Scientific Committee of Mathematical Models in Ecology and Evolution (Jan. 2025-present)
- Member of the Programme Committee BSc Biology at the University of Groningen (Nov. 2024-present)
- Coorganised Zurich Interaction Seminars (Sep. 2017-Jun. 2018)
- Reviewing (journals): American Naturalist, Biological Reviews, BMC Biology, Cancer Control, eLife, Evolution, Evolutionary Applications, Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution, Humanities & Social Sciences Communications Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Journal of Evolutionary Biology, PCI Evolutionary Biology, Scientific Reports
- Reviewing (grants): Arizona Cancer Evolution Centre (ACE), National Research, Development and Innovation Office Hungary (NFKI)

## Skills

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**Scientific** Mathematical modelling, computer simulations, scientific writing

**Programming** MATLAB, C++, R, Python

**Other** Mathematica, version control (Git), LaTeX, Inkscape

**Languages** Turkish (native), English (fluent), French (advanced), Spanish (advanced), Dutch (intermediate), German (beginner), Finnish (beginner)

## Relevant Training

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### PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- University Teaching Qualification (UTQ) - Jul. 2025
- PhD Supervision Excellence at the University of Groningen - Jul. 2025

### OTHER PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- Active bystander training

### COURSES

- Teaching Science at University; Scientific Writing for Evolutionary Biologists; Writing a Post-Doctoral Grant; Improvisation Skills for Researchers (University of Zurich)

### WORKSHOPS

- Evolutionary Transitions in Individuality (2023; Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology)
- Wildlife Cancer (2023; WildCan Network)
- Sex Differences in Local Adaptation (2019; ESEB Special Topic Network)
- The Cancer Mosaic, Traits, Strategies and Adaptations (2018; Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer – CREEC)
- Guarda Summer School in Evolutionary Biology (2018; ETH Zurich and University of Basel)
- Modelling Emerging Infections and Neglected Tropical Diseases (2016; Policy relevant infectious disease simulation and mathematical modelling – PRISM<sup>2</sup>)

## Society memberships

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European Society for Evolutionary Biology (ESEB), International Society of Cancer Ecology and Evolution (ISEEC), Evolutionary Demography Society, Turkish Society of Ecology and Evolution (EkoEvo)

## Miscellaneous

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- Tutor in high school biology (2013, classes given in French); high school and secondary school science and mathematics (2011)
- Volunteer in Istanbul Technical University Molecular Biology and Genetics Student Congress (2009–2012)
- Internship in Free University of Berlin Institute of Neurobiology (2010), Istanbul Technical University (2009)