



Dr. E. Yağmur Erten

(PRONOUNCED: YAA-MUUR EHR-TEN)

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Professional experience

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

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

–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., **Erten E.Y.** & 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

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

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

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

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

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

Other Research Experience

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

Outreach

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

Scientific speed-dating in Biology18

Feb. 14 2018

NEUCHÂTEL, SWITZERLAND

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

Oct. 30 2016

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Other Academic Contributions

- 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 (NFKIH)

Skills

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

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 – PRISM²)

Society memberships

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

- 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)