

UPPSALA  
UNIVERSITET

June | 2020

# IEG News

*June edition*

## News from the administration

### New co-worker

We welcome Ylva Mellin to our administrative team. Ylva will replace Emelie Tollin during her parental leave until end of August 2021.

### Planning to hire staff?

Please inform head of program and HR about your recruitment plans as soon as you are thinking of hiring someone, this is important and includes hourly employees as well.

### Report in Primula

Please remember to report absence in Primula as soon as possible, here are some guidelines what applies:

- Sick leave – first day sick.
- VAB (home with sick child) - report each day.
- Parental leave and vacation - apply 2 months in advance, as soon as your manager approved the leave.

### New introduction documents, Exit Checklist and ad templates

The introduction documents are updated and available both at MP (IEG, Documents and HR document) and at IEG:s webpage. If you use these versions you can be sure you use the latest updated version. HR are responsible to hand out "Introduction checklist", "Registration form - AKKA" and "General Safety". Note that group leaders are responsible to go through them and are active in many parts of these documents.

Field and Lab safety parts are taken care of by group leaders and respective Lab officer.

For employees HR is responsible to hand out the Exit checklist but for hourly employees, stipends and master students respective group leaders are responsible to hand out and go through the Exit checklist. There are also new updated ad templates available at MP.

## New faces at IEG

We welcome:

Axel Jensen - PhD student at Animal Ecology  
Marco Saltini – Researcher at Animal Ecology  
Sher Afzal Khan- Post Doc at Animal Ecology

## News from the Head of the department

Summer is here, and I wish everyone a good time during vacation, field work, and everything else you are up to. Thank you all also for contributing to a safe department during the unusual and challenging times we have had with restrictions in response to the pandemic. It is not over yet, so please continue to respect physical distance. Many are now working hard to also adapt the teaching of the fall to distance learning and minimal on-campus activities, and restricted lab and field work for the students. Still, there will be an increasing number of students on campus - our campus management is preparing measures to minimize risks.

The university has opened a call with deadline September 1, inviting all students and employees to apply for funding for projects that help decrease our carbon footprint. Find out more [here](#).

Silke Langenheder has been promoted to professor of biology, with specialization in limnology. Congratulations to Silke!

## New PhDs

Congratulations to Lili Li, Anastasija Isidorova and Kai Song for successfully defending their theses!

Lili Li defended her thesis "[Past demography and local adaptation in forest trees: Insights from natural populations and breeding programs of Norway spruce](#)".

Anastasija Isidorova defended her thesis: "[The origin and fate of sediment organic carbon in tropical reservoirs](#)".

Kai Song defended his thesis "[Divergence, selection, demographic history and conservation genomics of sibling bird species in boreal forest in Northern Eurasia and the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau](#)".

## News from the equal opportunities group

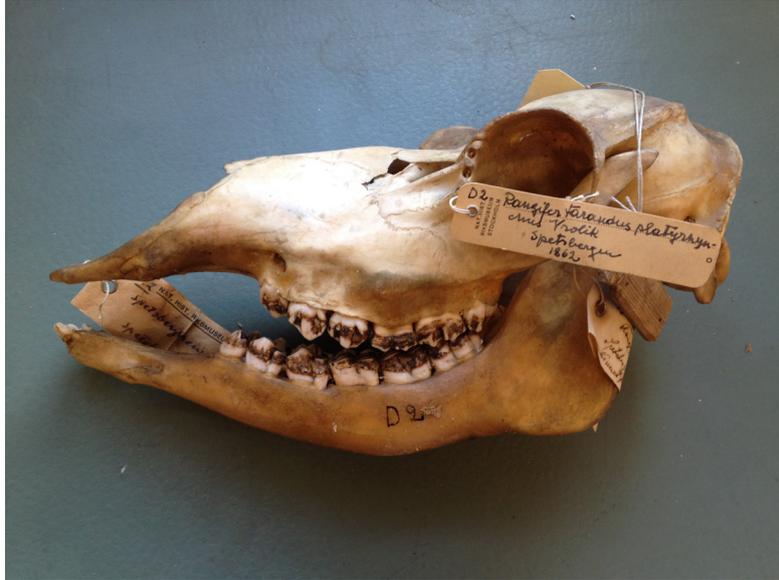
Equal opportunities group has decided to use the IEG newsletter to inform about equal opportunities related issues. In this letter, we would like to share a relevant reading tip about underrepresentation of ethnic minorities in the field of ecology and evolutionary biology (EEB).

["Why are there so few ethnic minorities in ecology and evolutionary biology? Challenges to inclusion and the role of sense of belonging"](#)

Although the study was done in the U.S.A., it is relevant for our international context. It is useful to reflect on how we at IEG could, for example in our international master program, increase the sense of belonging for minorities.

## New publications

Jaelle C Brealey, Henrique G Leitão, Tom van der Valk, Wenbo Xu, Katia Bougiouri and Katerina Guschanski have published [a paper](#) where they show the unexpected breadth of questions that can be addressed with this microbial fossil: the calcified form of the oral microbiome that preserves over millennia in various mammals. The study was made in collaboration with the [Swedish Museum of Natural History](#) in Stockholm.



*A reindeer skull with black dental calculus on its teeth. This is one of the specimens used in the study from which the scientists could retrieve information not only about the oral bacteria, but also about the reindeer individual itself (it's mitochondrial genome) and what it has been eating (plants contained in its diet). Photo taken at the Swedish Museum of Natural History by Katerina Guschanski*

## List of available machines and instruments at IEG

The LabSam group have compiled a list of the machines and instruments that can be used by anyone at IEG. The purpose of the list is to be a service and aid to IEG and prevent that a piece of equipment is purchased when it may be available at another programme. Do check the list before making an equipment purchase. The list can be accessed from [Medarbetarportalen](#).