



TOM ROTH

PhD Candidate




Tom Roth is a lecturer in Animal Behaviour & Cognition at Utrecht University, The Netherlands. He obtained his PhD at the Cognitive Psychology section of Leiden University (The Netherlands), under the supervision of Dr. Mariska Kret, and obtained his BSc in Biology (cum laude) and MSc in Environmental Biology (specialization Animal Ecology, cum laude) at Utrecht University.

His current research interests concern primate behavioral ecology, evolutionary psychology and comparative psychology. During his PhD project he studied the cognitive processes underlying mate preferences of zoo-housed orang-utans and humans.

EDUCATION

- 2012**
|
2015
Utrecht University
B.Sc. in Biology  Utrecht, The Netherlands
With honours (GPA: 4.00) Participated in the Science Faculty's Honours Programme
- 2016**
|
2018
Utrecht University
M.Sc. in Environmental Biology (Focus: Behavioural Ecology)  Utrecht, The Netherlands
With honours (GPA: 4.00) Participated in the U/Select Honours Programme Life Sciences

RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS

- 2015**
Bachelor Research Intern
Apenheul Primate Park  Apeldoorn, The Netherlands
For my Bachelor Thesis, I studied how zoos can stimulate natural locomotion behavior in zoo-housed Bornean orangutans.
- 2016**
|
2017
Master Research Intern
Apenheul Primate Park  Apeldoorn, The Netherlands
For my first Master Research Project, I studied how dyadic affiliation and aggression affect social vigilance in zoo-housed western lowlands gorillas.
- 2018**
Master Research Intern
Sikundur Monitoring Station  Sumatra, Indonesia
For my second Master Research Project, I studied how association behavior in semi-solitary orang-utans is affected by fruit availability and age-sex class.



CONTACT INFO

 info@tomroth.nl

 tomroth.nl

 +31 630584836

For more information, please contact me via email.

SKILLS

Experience in statistical analysis, Bayesian mixed modeling in R.

Experience in working with primates, both in captivity and wild.

LANGUAGES

Dutch (native)

English (fluent)

Indonesian (intermediate)

German (intermediate)

French (intermediate)


Last updated on 2024-06-08.



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE


2019
|
2024

● **PhD Candidate**

Leiden University/Apenheul Primate Park  The Netherlands
For my PhD project, I investigated the cognitive processes underlying mate preferences of zoo-housed orang-utans and humans. I obtained my doctorate *cum laude* on 13th of March, 2024.

2022 -

● **Lecturer**


Utrecht University  The Netherlands
I recently started as a Lecturer in Animal Behavior & Cognition at Utrecht University. Apart from doing research, I teach classes at bachelor and master level. In addition, I supervise bachelor- and master students during their research projects.



TEACHING EXPERIENCE


2015

● **Student-assistent "Evolutie & Biodiversiteit"**

I was a student-assistent during the 1st year bachelor course "Evolutie & Biodiversiteit". This entailed supervising students during practicals and computer assignments, and giving a lecture on misconceptions about evolution and natural selection.
 Utrecht, The Netherlands


2015-
2016

● **Course development: "Evolutie Interdisciplinair"**

Together with dr. Fred Wiegant I developed the course "Evolutie Interdisciplinair", a 3rd year bachelor course that tries to get students acquainted with the application of evolutionary theory in different research fields (e.g. medicine, sociology). Furthermore, students learn about important debates within evolutionary research, such as adaptationism.
 Utrecht, The Netherlands


2019
|
2022

● **Workgroup teacher**

For 3 years, I taught the workgroup "Animal Consciousness" (70-110 students per year) in the second-year Psychology bachelor course "Consciousness" at Leiden University. During these workgroups I introduced students to research on animal consciousness, and I supervised them during an essay assignment.
 Leiden, The Netherlands


2019
|
2021

● **Bachelor thesis supervisor**

I supervised third-year Psychology bachelor students while they were writing their Bachelor Thesis. During these projects, students follow the complete empirical cycle: they come up with questions, hypotheses, and collect data to answer the questions. I have supervised 4 groups of bachelor students (16 in total).
 Leiden, The Netherlands

2019
|
2022

● **Guest lecturer**

I gave guest lectures on sexual selection, evolutionary psychology, and adaptationism for bachelor students of different levels and programmes at Utrecht University.
 Utrecht, The Netherlands

2023



University Teaching Qualification

In 2023, I obtained my University Teaching Qualification (UTQ/BKO), which is a qualification of pedagogical competencies of university teachers in The Netherlands.

📍 Utrecht, The Netherlands



EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

2020

2022



Behaviour (Brill)

Guest editor for the new article type "Anecdotal reports".

📍 The Netherlands

2022

present



Behaviour (Brill)

Associate editor

📍 The Netherlands



GRANTS

2017



Stichting Het Kronendak

Internship Grant (€500): "Invloed van fruitbeschikbaarheid op tijdelijke aggregaties bij Sumatraanse orang-oetans (*Pongo abelii*)"

📍 The Netherlands

2017



Utrecht University

U/Select Honours Grant (€2500): "Influence of fruit availability on party size of Sumatran orangutans (*Pongo abelii*) living in previously logged forest."

📍 The Netherlands

2018



Animal Behavior Society

E.O. Wilson Conservation Award (\$500): "Influence of Fruit Availability on Party Size of Sumatran Orangutans (*Pongo abelii*) Living in Previously Logged Forest."

📍 USA

2019



International Primate Society

Research Grant (\$1373): "Investigating cognitive biases for symmetry and sexual dimorphism in zoo-housed Bornean orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*) using touchscreen-based tasks."

📍 USA

2020



Dobberke Foundation for Comparative Psychology

Research Grant (€3500): "Determining orangutan (*Pongo spp.*) partner preferences via eye tracking"

📍 The Netherlands



AWARDS

2016



"Highly Commended Entrant" in The Undergraduate Awards

"Recapturing the canopy: stimulating Bornean orang-utan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) natural locomotion behaviour in a zoo environment."

📍 Utrecht, The Netherlands

2018 ● **"Best student oral presentation" at NVG Meeting 2018 (Netherlands Society for Behavioral Biology)**
"Keeping an eye on your conspecifics: social vigilance of friends and foes in zoo-housed western lowland gorillas."
📍 Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands

2019 ● **"Nominee" for Vliegendehart Thesis Award (Utrecht University)**
"Love at first sight: identifying long-distance methods to test partner preference in zoo-housed orangutans."
📍 Utrecht, The Netherlands

2021 ● **American Journal of Primatology Best Student Paper Award**
"Grouping behavior of Sumatran orangutans (Pongo abelii) and Tapanuli orangutans (Pongo tapanuliensis) living in forest with low fruit abundance."
📍 USA



ORAL PRESENTATIONS

2018 ● **Invited presentation Bogor Agricultural University.**
Aggregation behavior of Sumatran orangutans (Pongo abelii) living in low-productive forest.
📍 Bogor, Indonesia

2018 ● **Annual Meeting Netherlands Society for Behavioural Biology.**
Social vigilance of friends and foes in zoo-housed western lowland gorillas.
📍 Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands

2019 ● **Cognition, Behavior & Evolution Network Annual Conference.**
Grouping Behavior of Sumatran Orangutans (Pongo abelii) and Tapanuli Orangutans (Pongo tapanuliensis) Living in Low-productive Forest.
📍 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2020 ● **Cognition, Behavior & Evolution Network Annual Conference.**
Multimodal attractiveness: exploring the effects of sound, sight and scent on speed-date outcome.
📍 Online

2021 ● **Great Ape Tag Orangutan Meeting 2021**
Tinder for orang-utans: Identifying long-distance methods to test mate preference in zoo-housed orang-utans
📍 Online

2022 ● **Great Ape Tag Orangutan Meeting 2022**
Tinder for orang-utans: Identifying long-distance methods to test mate preference in zoo-housed orang-utans
📍 Online

- 2022 ● **EFP-GfP 2022**
An experimental investigation of attention to and preference for flanges in orangutans
📍 Arnhem, The Netherlands
- 2022 ● **Cognition, Behavior & Evolution Network Annual Conference.**
Attentional bias towards flanged males in Bornean orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*)
📍 Leiden, The Netherlands
- 2022 ● **Annual Meeting Netherlands Society for Behavioural Biology.**
Attentional bias towards flanged males in Bornean orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*)
📍 Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands
- 2023 ● **Tobii user workshop.**
Attentional bias towards flanged males in Bornean orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*)
📍 Leiden, The Netherlands
- 2023 ● **International Primatological Society Meeting 2023**
An experimental investigation of attention to and preference for flanges in orangutans
📍 Kuching, Malaysia
- 2024 ● **European Federation of Primatology Meeting 2024**
Fruitful connections: a multi-site exploration of the impact of fruit availability and age-sex class on orangutan (*Pongo spp.*) sociality
📍 Lausanne, Switzerland



POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 ● **Brain and Behavioral Evolution in Primates Workshop.**
The Value of Attractiveness: implicit biases and direct attention towards attractive faces.
📍 Erice, Italy
- 2021 ● **European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association 2021.**
Multimodal attractiveness: exploring the differential effects of sound, sight and scent on speed-date outcome.
📍 Online
- 2022 ● **Bridging the Technological Gap Workshop**
Attentional bias towards flanged males in Bornean orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*)
📍 Göttingen, Germany
- 2023 ● **Bayesian Statistical Analyses for the Human, Social, and Cognitive Sciences**
Using zero-one inflated beta regression to study preferential attention & mate choice in humans and Bornean orang-utans
📍 Verona, Italy



OUTREACH

- 2019 ● **De Volkskrant**
[Tinder voor apen: fijn voor de aap, goed voor de voortplanting](#)
📍 The Netherlands
A national newspaper article/interview about my PhD project.
- 2019 ● **Leiden University: 3 October University**
[Kunnen orang-oetans verliefd worden?](#)
📍 The Netherlands
Presentation during an outreach event for children at Leiden University about my PhD project.
- 2020 ● **Leidsch Dagblad**
[Speeddaten voor de liefde en de Orang-oetan naast Leiden-Centraal](#)
📍 The Netherlands
A local newspaper article/interview about a speed-date event I organized together with my colleague Iliana Samara.
- 2020 ● **Scientias**
[Wetenschappers helpen datende apen met het vinden van de ideale match](#)
📍 The Netherlands
An online article/interview about my PhD project.
- 2020 ● **Quest**
[All You Need Is Quest 2020](#)
📍 The Netherlands
Together with my colleague Iliana Samara, I organized an online dating study in cooperation with the popular science magazine *Quest*.
- 2020 ● **Sleutelstad Radio**
[Tom Roth over de partnerkeuze van orang-oetans](#)
📍 The Netherlands
Interview about my PhD Project on a local radio station.
- 2021 ● **HBES Newsletter**
[Multimodal attractiveness: How important our sight, sound, and scent are for first date impressions](#)
📍 USA
Popular science article about my study on multimodal attractiveness during first interactions.
- 2022 ● **NRC**
[Tom Roth onderzoekt of je orang-oetans kunt leren tinderen](#)
📍 The Netherlands
Newspaper article about my PhD research.
- 2022 ● **Radio 1**
[NOS Radio 1 Journaal](#)
📍 The Netherlands
Radio interview about my PhD research.
- 2022 ● **Jeugdjournaal**
[Orang-oetans daten online met elkaar](#)
📍 The Netherlands
An interview in the kids news about my PhD research.

- 2022 ● **Khalid & Sophie**
[Tinder voor orang-oetans](#) 📍 The Netherlands
A tv-interview with me and Mariska Kret about my PhD research.
- 2023 ● **Studium Generale (Universiteit Utrecht)**
[Is de mens wel gemaakt voor monogamie?](#) 📍 The Netherlands
A panel discussion about monogamy in humans.
- 2023 ● **EOS Magazine**
[Ook orang-oetans tinderen](#) 📍 Belgium
A magazine-interview about my PhD research.
- 2023 ● **Radio 1**
[Nieuws en Co](#) 📍 The Netherlands
Independent commentator on a new article about orang-utan vocalization.
- 2023 ● **Betweterfestival**
[Kunnen we het succes van een date voorspellen?](#) 📍 The Netherlands
A public talk about predicting the success of a first date.
- 2023 ● **Universiteit van Nederland**
[Kunnen we het succes van een date voorspellen?](#) 📍 The Netherlands
A podcast about predicting the success of a first date.
- 2023 ● **BNR Nieuwsradio**
[Kan de wetenschap jouw date redden?](#) 📍 The Netherlands
A radio interview about predicting the success of a first date.
- 2023 ● **BNN/VARA (tv)**
[Dickpicks: de keiharde wetenschap](#) 📍 The Netherlands
A tv-show/experiment about the potential role of sexual overperception bias in sending dickpicks.
- 2023 ● **Trouw**
[Tranen lijken een chemisch afweermecanisme tegen agressie, wijst een experiment uit](#) 📍 The Netherlands
Independent commentator on a new article about the potential aggression-reducing effect of human tears.
- 2024 ● **Trouw**
[Kijkcijferkanon 'Married at First Sight' verkoopt onzinwetenschap over partnerkeuze](#) 📍 The Netherlands
A critical opinion piece about the tv-show 'Married at First Sight'
- 2024 ● **Mare**
[Wat Tinder kan leren van orang-oetans](#) 📍 The Netherlands
A newspaper-interview about my PhD research.

2024



Universiteit Leiden

[Hoe touchscreens en eyetrackers ons iets leren over het 'dating life' van orang-oetans](#)

The Netherlands

An interview about my PhD research for the Leiden University website.

2024



Telegraaf

[Beschermt deelnemers en stop gewoon met tv-programma MAFS](#)

The Netherlands

A critical opinion piece about the tv-show 'Married at First Sight' together with dr. Vittorio Busato



PUBLICATIONS

Roth, T. S., Samara, I., Perea-Garcia, J. O., & Kret, M.E. (2024). No immediate attentional bias towards or choice bias for male secondary sexual characteristics in Bornean orang-utans (*Pongo pygmaeus*). *Scientific Reports*, 14, 12095. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-62187-9>

Roth, T. S. (2024). *Tinder for orang-utans: comparing sexually selective cognition among Bornean orang-utans (Pongo pygmaeus) and humans (Homo sapiens)*. <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3721951>

Folz, J., **Roth, T. S.**, Nikolic, M., & Kret, M.E. (2024). Who gets caught by the emotion? Attentional biases toward emotional facial expressions and their link to social anxiety and autistic traits. *Current Psychology*, 43, 3486–3502. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-023-04484-6>

Roth, T. S., Samara, I., Perea-Garcia, J. O., & Kret, M.E. (2023). Individual attractiveness preferences differentially modulate immediate and voluntary attention. *Scientific Reports*, 13, 2147. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-29240-5>

Laméris, D. W., van Berlo, E., **Roth, T. S.**, & Kret, M.E. (2022). No evidence for biased attention towards emotional scenes in Bornean orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*). *Affective Science*, 3, 772–782. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42761-022-00158-x>

Samara, I., **Roth, T. S.**, Nikolic, M., Prochazkova, E., & Kret, M.E. (2022). Can third-party observers detect attraction in others based on subtle nonverbal cues?. *Current Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-022-02927-0>

Sterck, E.H.M., & **Roth, T.S.** (2022). Socioecology of Asian colobines. In: *The Colobines: Natural History, Behaviour, and Ecological Diversity* (Matsuda I, Grueter C & Teichroeb JA, eds.). Cambridge University Press, UK (pp 250-270). <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108347150.017>

Roth, T. S., Du, X., Samara, I., & Kret, M. E. (2021). Attractiveness modulates attention, but does not enhance gaze cueing. *Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences*, 16(4), 343–361. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ebs0000265>

Samara, I., **Roth, T. S.**, & Kret, M.E. (2021). The Role of Emotion Projection, Sexual Desire, and Self-Rated Attractiveness in the Sexual Overperception Bias. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 50, 2507–2516. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-021-02017-5>

Nikolic, M., & **Roth, T. S.** (2021). A comparative glance on self-conscious emotions: A commentary on Kret et al. (2020). *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*, 129, 154–156. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neubiorev.2021.07.031>

Roth, T. S., Samara, I., & Kret, M. E. (2021). Multimodal mate choice: exploring the effects of sight, sound, and scent on partner choice in a speed-date paradigm. *Evolution & Human Behavior*, 42(5), 461–468. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2021.04.004>

Roth, T. S., Samara, I., Prochazkova, E., Tan, J., & Kret, M. E. (2021). A comparative framework of inter-individual coordination and pair-bonding. *Current Opinions in Behavioral Sciences*, 39, 98–105. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cobeha.2021.03.005>

Roth, T. S., Samara, I., & Kret, M. E. (2021). Ultimate and proximate factors underlying sexual overperception bias: A reply to Lee et al. (2020). *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 42(1), 73–75. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2020.06.002>

Roth, T. S., & Sterck, E. H. M. (2020). Social Vigilance of Friends and Foes in Western Lowland Gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*). *Animal Behavior and Cognition*, 7(4), 537–555. <https://doi.org/10.26451/abc.07.04.06.2020>

Kret, M. E., & **Roth, T. S.** (2020). Anecdotes in animal behaviour. *Behaviour*, 157(5), 385–386. <https://doi.org/10.1163/1568539X-00003600>

Roth, T. S., Rianti, P., Fredriksson, G. M., Wich, S. A., & Nowak, M. G. (2020). Grouping behavior of Sumatran orangutans (*Pongo abelii*) and Tapanuli orangutans (*Pongo tapanuliensis*) living in forest with low fruit abundance. *American Journal of Primatology*, 82(5), e23123. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajp.23123>

Roth, T. S., Bionda, T. R., & Sterck, E. H. M. (2019). Duckling-catching by a zoo-housed western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*). *Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research*, 7(3), 144–148. <https://doi.org/10.19227/jzar.v7i3.398>

Roth, T. S., Bionda, T. R., & Sterck, E. H. M. (2017). Recapturing the canopy: Stimulating Bornean orang-utan (*Pongo pygmaeus*)

natural locomotion behaviour in a zoo environment. *Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research*, 5(1), 16–24. <https://doi.org/10.19227/jzar.v5i1.186>