

Curriculum vitae

Prof. Dr. Simone Sommer

Institute Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation Genomics, Ulm University, Germany.

Position: Chair, Institute Director & Head of EcoHealth Unit.

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Major research interests

- **Consequences of anthropogenic stressors and climate change on wildlife health and zoonotic infections:** shifts in species community and abundance pattern, population ecology and genetics, specialist versus generalist species, drivers of infection prevalence and intensity, host-pathogen interactions, co-infection networks, disease ecology, and conservation implications.
- **Gut and skin microbial (bacteriome, mycobiome) diversity and function:** pathogen - immune gene - microbiome interface, reciprocal effects of microbiome dysbiosis on disease resistance, coinfections and associated fitness.
- **Importance of adaptive immune gene diversity (MHC, TLR) in evolutionary processes:** pathogen resistance, behavioural ecology and conservation.

Academic Education and Degrees

1987-1989 Studies of Biology, Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg, Germany.
1990-1994 Studies of Biology, Eberhard-Karls-University Tübingen, Germany.
1995-1997 PhD, Eberhard-Karls-University Tübingen, Germany.
28. Jan 2004 Habilitation in Zoology, Hamburg University, Germany.
03. Feb 2004 *Venia legendi* for Zoology and Animal Conservation, Hamburg University, Germany.
08. Nov 2006 *Venia legendi* for Evolutionary Ecology, Potsdam University, Germany.

Professional Career

Since 2014 **Full Professor (W3), Director, Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation Genomics, Ulm University, Germany, Head of EcoHealth Unit**

2013 **Call declined: Full Professor (W3), Molecular Ecology and Evolution, Potsdam University, Germany.**

2007 - 2013 **apl Professor, Evolutionary Ecology, Potsdam University, Germany.**

2006 - 2013 **Department Head, Evolutionary Genetics, Leibniz-Institute for Zoo- and Wildlife Research (IZW), Berlin.**

2005 **Visiting Scientist, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Stellenbosch University, South Africa, Dept Genomics & Conservation Biology: Evolutionary genetics and gastrointestinal parasites of South African mammals.**

2002 - 2009 **Project Coordinator and Principal Investigator (PI), Science and Technology for the Mata Atlântica/Brasil; funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF): Biodiversity conservation in fragmented landscapes at the Atlantic Plateau of São Paulo, Brazil (BioCAPSP).**

2001 **Project Coordinator, IUCN Species Survival Commission (World leading conservation agency): Defining priorities for biodiversity conservation in Madagascar.**

1998 - 2006	Assistant Professor, Animal Ecology and Conservation , Hamburg University, Germany (Prof Dr JU Ganzhorn).
1998	Postdoctoral Fellow (DAAD), Washington University, St. Louis/USA (Prof Dr A Templeton), Northwestern University, Chicago (Prof Dr A Yoder).
1996-1997	Research Associate , Behavioural Physiology, Tübingen University & MPI for Immunology, Tübingen/Germany.

Awards

2024	Elected fellow of Leopoldina, German National Academy of Sciences.
2023	Lehrbonus (teaching award), Ulm University.
2017	Lehrbonus (teaching award), Ulm University.
2007	German Scientist Award in Natural Sciences, Award to outstanding scientists, 13. German-American Frontiers of Science Symposium GAFOS, Irvine California/USA, funded by the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation and the National Academy of Sciences, USA.
2005	Research Fellowship, Stellenbosch University, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).
2003	Junior Scientist Award, 92. Dahlem Conference, Berlin 'Attachment and Bonding: a new synthesis'.
2000	Hamburg: summa cum laude: Award to outstanding young scientists by the Senat of the City of Hamburg.
1998	Fritz-Frank-Award, PhD thesis award of the German Mammalogist Society, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Säugetierkunde (DGS).
1998	Postdoc fellowship, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).
1995-1997	Several conference travel awards & support of field work in Madagascar, Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft.
1995-1997	PhD fellowship, Landesgraduiertenförderung Baden-Württemberg.
Since 1998	> 250 invited talks.

Academic and professional services and achievements (selection)

2026 - 2031	Project Coordinator and Principal Investigator (PI) of <i>TrophicHealth</i> : Effects of fertilization on AMR and zoonotic pathogen accumulation along the trophic chain – towards a One Health perspective in circular agriculture (funded by the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, BMFTR).
Since 2024	Nominated Member, Permanent Senate Commission on Fundamental Issues of Biological Diversity / Ständige Senatskommission der DFG für Grundsatzfragen der biologischen Vielfalt (SKBV).
Since 2024	Nominated Member, Scientific Advisory Board One Health, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development / Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ).
Since 2023	Nominated Member, Foundation Board / Stiftungsrat, Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change / Leibniz-Institut zur Analyse des Biodiversitätswandels (LIB), Hamburg, Bonn.
Since 2023	Vorstandsmitglied, Erika und Walter Datz-Stiftung.

Since 2023	Nominated Member, Scientific Advisory Board, Helmholtz Institute for One Health (HIOH, Greifswald, Germany).
2023	Elected Member, Scientific Advisory Board 'National One Health Platform'.
2023	Nominated Member, Jury 'Hamburger Wissenschaftspreis 2023 One Health', Academy of Science in Hamburg / Akademie der Wissenschaften in Hamburg.
Since 2021	Nominated Member, DFG Grants Committee on Collaborative Research Centres / Senats- und Bewilligungsausschusses für Sonderforschungsbereiche (SFBs).
2021 - 2023	Elected Member, Scientific Advisory Board 'Nationale Forschungsplattform für Zoonosen'.
2020 - 2023	Nominated Member, DFG Interdisciplinary Commission for Pandemic Research / Interdisziplinäre Kommission für Pandemieforschung.
2020 – 2023	Elected Senator, Ulm University.
Since 2020	Member, PREZODE Initiative (PREventing ZOonotic Diseases Emergence).
2020 – 2024	Nominated Member, Senatsausschuss Lehre, Ulm University.
2019 - 2023	Elected Head, Scientific Advisory Board <i>Senckenberg – World of Biodiversity</i> , Member of the Leibniz-Association.
Since 2018	Scientific Advisor, <i>Swiss Academics of Arts and Science</i> . Swiss Academic fact sheets: Biodiversity, a guarantee of health.
2017 - 2019	Study Dean, Biological Studies and Biochemistry, Ulm University.
2016 - 2021	Nominated Member, Jury of the Karl-Ritter-von-Frisch Price, Scientific Award of the German Zoological Society (DZG).
2014 - 2019	Nominated Member, Scientific Advisory Board, <i>Nationalpark Schwarzwald</i> .
2014 - 2023	Nominated Member, Scientific Advisory Board <i>Senckenberg – World of Biodiversity</i> . Member of the Leibniz-Association.
Since 2014	Member of the Faculty Council, Ulm University.
Since 2014	Member of the Study Commission Biology, Ulm University.
2011 - 2022	Steering Committee Member, DFG Priority Program "Ecology and Species Barriers in Emerging Viral Diseases" (SPP 1596).
2011 - 2021	Editorial Board, <i>Nature Conservation</i> .
2011 - 2018	Nominated Member, Scientific Advisory Board, <i>Leibniz-Institute of Primate Research</i> (DPZ), Göttingen.
2010 - 2013	Associate Member, <i>Centre of Infection Biology and Immunology</i> , ZIBI, Berlin.
2009 - 2022	Associate Editor, <i>Conservation Genetics</i> .
2009 - 2013	Editorial Board, <i>Ecotropica</i> .
2009 -2013	Founding Member; Steering Committee 'Berlin Consortium for Genomics in Biodiversity Research'. Next generation sequencing technology center for 'Evolutionary and ecological genomics in biodiversity research'.
2008 - 2015	Elected Member, German Research Foundation (DFG), Scientific Advisory Board for evaluation of research proposals, Panel 'Zoology' / DFG-Fachkollegiatin.
Since 2007	Member of evaluation committees of numerous national and international tenure-track and professorship applications, Expert reviewer to assess numerous scientists nominated for academies, prizes, and awards, Member of evaluation committees of various national and international research institutions.

Since 2004 External member of doctoral theses and habilitation committees in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, UK, Sweden, South Africa, Mexico and Australia.

Since 1998 Expert reviewer to assess grant applications for various national and international funding agencies and bodies.

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