

Paul Durst

Department of Biological Sciences
College of Arts and Science
Vanderbilt University
Office: 2220A Stevenson
Phone: (615) 343-6544
paul.durst@vanderbilt.edu

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Director of Initiatives in STEM Education, College of Arts and Science
Vanderbilt University, July 2021-present

Assistant Director, STEM Education, Council on Science and Technology
Princeton University, July 2017-July 2021

POST-DOCTORAL EXPERIENCE:

Seeding Postdoctoral Innovators in Research and Education Postdoctoral Fellow
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, September 2014-July 2017

EDUCATION:

Duke University; Biology, PhD, 2014

Ecological Factors and Historical Biogeography Influence the Evolutionary Divergence of Insular Rodents, Advised by V. Louise Roth

University of California, Berkeley; Integrative Biology, BA, 2006

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Assistant Professor of the Practice, Vanderbilt University, 2021-present

- Genes and Society, 2021

Lecturer (secondary appointment), Princeton University, 2018-2021

- Transformative Questions in Biology, 2018-2020
- Our Biased Brains: the Science of Cognitive Bias and Decision Making, 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (cont.)

Visiting Assistant Professor, UNC Pembroke, 2016-2017

- Molecular Ecology
- Principles of Biology

Teaching Assistant, Duke University 2009-2014

- Courses included: Principles of Biology, Animal Physiology, Comparative and Functional Vertebrate Anatomy

Guest lectures

- The Science of Roman History, Princeton University, 2020
- Human Genomics, Princeton University, 2018
- Animal Adaptations, Duke University, 2015
- Evolution and Development, UNC Chapel Hill, 2014
- Islands and Evolution, NC State, 2014
- Comparative and Functional Vertebrate Anatomy, Duke University, 2013

PUBLICATIONS:

Laffey, E.H., C.A. Riihimaki, P.A.P. Durst, M.C. Zheng, 2018. The development and evaluation of a series of new first-year engineering courses. Paper presented at the 2018 IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference. doi:10.1109/FIE.2018.8658650

Lea, A.J., T.P. Vilgalys, P.A.P. Durst, J. Tung, 2017. Maximizing ecological and evolutionary insight from bisulfite sequencing data sets. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 1(8), 1074-1083, doi:10.1038/s41559-017-0229-0

Alf, B., P.A.P. Durst, D.W. Pfennig. Behavioral plasticity and the origins of novelty: the evolution of the rattlesnake rattle. *The American Naturalist*, 188(4), doi: 10.1086/688017

Durst, P.A.P. & V.L. Roth, 2015. Mainland size variation informs predictive models of exceptional body size change in rodents. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 282, 20150239, doi:10.1098/rspb.2015.0239

McClain, C.R., P.A.P. Durst, A.G. Boyer, C.D. Francis, 2013. Unravelling the determinants of insular body size shifts. *Biology Letters*, 9(1), doi: 10.1098/rsbl.2012.0989

Durst, P.A.P. & V.L. Roth, 2012. Classification-tree methods provide a multifactorial approach to predicting insular body-size evolution in rodents. *The American Naturalist*, 179(4), 545-553, doi: 10.1086/664611

Durst, P.A.P., 2005. Habitat preferences of the avian community on the island of Moorea, French Polynesia, *The Biology and Geomorphology of Tropical Islands: Student Research Papers - 2004*. Richard P. Gump Biological Station, University of California, Berkeley, 2004.

GRANTS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

- SPIRE Fellowship (see Post-Doctoral Experience), 2014-2017
- NSF Doctoral Dissertation Grant, 2013
- SciFund Challenge (a crowd-sourced funding initiative; \$1,046 raised), 2012
- Sigma Xi Grant-In-Aid, 2011
- Graduate Fellowship, National Evolutionary Synthesis Center, 2010
- Duke Center for Science Education Student Outreach Grant, 2010
- Duke Biology Departmental Grant-In-Aid, 2009-2013
- Honorable Mention, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, 2009
- James B. Duke Fellowship, 2008

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Mentored and conducted research with undergraduates from Duke, Johnson C. Smith University, and UNC Chapel Hill (resulting in an undergraduate first-authored publication; see Alf et al. 2016)
- Howard Hughes Research Fellows Program Graduate Student Coordinator, Duke University, 2012-2014
- Organized and led Responsible Conduct in Research Seminar, Duke University, 2011
“Permits and Procedures for Animal and Plant Research”
- Junior Editor, American Journal Experts, 2009-2012
- Manuscript Reviewer: PLOS One, Evolutionary Biology, Molecular Ecology, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Journal of Biogeography, Oikos, Ecography, Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences
- Memberships: National Association of Biology Teachers, American Society of Mammalogists, American Society of Naturalists, Duke Chapter of Sigma Xi, The Wildlife Society