

Frances C. Geller

Laboratory of David C. Lahti: Animal Behavior & Evolution

Ecology, Evolutionary Biology & Behavior
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Biology (Ecology, Evolution & Behavior), *in progress*
The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Bachelor of Arts, Music, *Magna cum laude*, 2005
Queens College, City University of New York

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Current research

- Liability of song culture in the house finch (*Haemorbous mexicanus*) and its implications for cultural evolution
- Function of song bout structure in the house finch (*Haemorbous mexicanus*)

Research Assistance

- Evolution of antiparasite defenses in African weaverbirds (Ploceidae)
- Mechanisms of brood parasite egg rejection in the American robin (*Turdus migratorius*)
- Breeding behavior of the introduced African village weaverbird (*Ploceus cucullatus*) in the Dominican Republic
- A virtual herbarium for the flora of Awash National Park, Ethiopia

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Courses

- Queens College, CUNY, 2015
Animal Behavior (BIOL 345W)
Principles of Evolutionary Biology (BIOL 287)
- Queens College, CUNY, 2013-2015
General Biology: Life Forms & Ecosystems (BIOL 1060)

High School Programs

- 14th Annual Queens College Summer Science Program
“Sex Differences in the Animal Kingdom” (workshop)

HONORS, AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2013
- CUNY Science Scholarship, The Graduate Center, 2012-2017
- Dean's List, Queens College, CUNY, 1999-2005, 2010-2011
- Aaron Copland School of Music Graduating Senior Award, Queens College, CUNY, 2005
- Honors in Music, Queens College, CUNY, 2005
- Rathaus Family Memorial Award, Queens College, CUNY, 2001
- Queens College Honors Scholarship, Queens College, CUNY, 1999-2003
- New York State Scholarship for Academic Excellence, HESC, 1999-2003
- Principal's Award for Highest Cumulative GPA, F.H. LaGuardia High School, 1999

PRESENTATIONS

Department of Biology, Queens College, City University of New York. **“Having Kids: How to invest wisely”** (guest lecture). March 2015.

Quintessential Queens: Celebrating America's Fourth Largest City. Flushing, NY. **“Late social influence on crystallization in a wild house finch”** (poster). October 2013.

Annual Meeting of the Animal Behavior Society, Boulder, CO. **“Late social influence on crystallization in a wild house finch”** (poster). July 2013.

Department of Biology, Queens College, City University of New York. **“Learning: almost everybody does it”** (guest lecture). April 2013.

Department of Biology, Queens College, City University of New York. **“Animal cognition: from learning to culture”** (guest lecture). May 2012.

American Museum of Natural History, Lang Science Program. **“Mechanisms of cultural divergence in the eastern house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) population.”** February 2012.

Fourth Annual Biology Department Symposium, Queens College, City University of New York. **“Mechanisms of cultural divergence in the eastern house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) population.”** January 2012.

Sigma Xi Research Day, Queens College, City University of New York. **“A Virtual Guide to the Flora of Awash National Park”** (poster). March 2011.

OTHER SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Maniego, Charles, **Frances C. Geller**, Chenghui Ju, Khaleda Khan, and David C. Lahti. 2015. Song sharing and assessment of individual identity in house finches (*Haemorrhous mexicanus*): a white paper to accompany the recordings of Paul C. Munding deposited at the Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds. Macaulay Library, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY.

Science consultant for *Uncommon Goods*, 2015

FURTHER EXPERIENCE

Professional

Program Manager & Finance Associate (Manhattan New Music Project)
December 2008 – March 2010

Office Manager & Workshop Coordinator (The Western Wind Vocal Ensemble)
January 2006 – December 2008

Community & Volunteering

New York City Audubon (Project Safe Flight, Sunset Eco-Cruise series, various administrative)
February 2007 – January 2010

C4: The Choral Composer/Conductor Collective (Co-founder and Board of Directors)
January 2006 – March 2010