

Francis (Sid) Dougan
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Educational Qualifications:

Grade:

(2023 - Present)

Ph.D. in Individual Differences and Evolutionary Psychology

Supervisor: Dr David M Buss
The University of Texas at Austin (USA)

2013 - 2017

MSci in Zoology (Combined BSc/MSc)

Supervisor: Dr Richard Wall
Tutor: Dr Mark Viney
The University of Bristol (UK)

2:1 (Second Class Honours: First Division)
(Total Grades/Credits Equivalent to GPA of 3.38)

2012 - 2013 Access Course in Biology and Chemistry
Somerset College of Art and Technology (UK)

*Of the available 60 credits - 48 graded
Distinction and 12 graded Merit*

2012 - 2012 Preparation for HE Science
Exeter College (UK)

Distinction

2009 - 2011 National Diploma in Music
Bridgwater College (UK)

*Triple Distinction**

2008 - 2009 First Diploma in Music
Bridgwater College (UK)

*Distinction**

BSc/MSc Research Experience:

2013 - 2017 - During my 4-year Zoology MSci degree I received training in experimental design, data collection, and statistical analysis using both R and SPSS. I completed modules such as evolutionary biology, life-history strategies, behavioural ecology, mammalian ecology, quantitative methods, and many other relevant modules. I designed and conducted independent research projects in the laboratory and the field. I wrote numerous assessed scientific reports and essays, including two extensive literature reviews titled “The Evolution of Parasitism in Nematoda” (supervised by Professor Mark Viney), and “Allometry and Scaling Relationships in Arthropods” (supervised by Professor Richard Wall). I also presented research via oral presentations, and chaired several scientific conferences.

2017 – MSci 4th year laboratory research project titled “Development and Phenotypic Plasticity in the Blowfly *Lucilia sericata*” at the University of Bristol Parasitology Lab (supervised by Professor Richard Wall).

It had previously been shown that under crowded conditions *L. sericata* larvae exhibit adaptive phenotypic plasticity and emerge as smaller adults than is typical. I was interested in further investigating the effects of this phenotypic plasticity on larval development. Specifically, I wanted to establish the minimal viable weight for *L. sericata*, the effects size has on development, survival, and reproduction, and how these effects differed between males and females. The project required rearing and maintaining several lineages of blowflies in the laboratory, handling live insects, dissections, microscopy, and statistical analysis.

2015 - 2016 – MSci 3rd year laboratory research project titled “Foraging Behaviour in a *Camponotus* Ant Colony: Interactions with a Pitcher Plant” at the University of Bristol Sensory Biology Lab (supervised by Dr Ulrike Bauer).

This was an exploratory project in which I investigated the behaviour of a polymorphic *Camponotus* ant colony when foraging for nectar on a *Nepenthes rafflesiana* pitcher plant. I was curious to establish whether there was division of labour and specialisation between ants of different sizes, and whether the ants would preferentially forage from pitchers of specific sizes and/or ages. The project required rearing and maintaining a colony of *Camponotus* ants in the laboratory, designing and conducting behavioural

experiments, and analysing nectar-sucrose compositions. I was also responsible for the care of a highly valuable *N. rafflesiana* pitcher plant that was on loan to the university.

2015 – MSci 2nd year field research project titled “Ultrasound Startle-Responses in Neotropical Invertebrates” at La Selva Biological station, Costa Rica (supervised by Professor Marc Holderied).

Echolocation hearing and adaptive ultrasound acoustic startle responses (ASRs) had been studied extensively within orders such as Lepidoptera, but, comparatively, ASRs in other orders were not well known. Due to the wide range of invertebrates that bats prey upon, I hypothesised that natural selection would have favoured the evolution of ASRs in many more species and orders than had been documented, and I was interested to examine the prevalence of ASRs among a wide range of neotropical invertebrates. The project required conducting behavioural experiments in harsh/hazardous conditions in the rainforest, safely and humanely catching and handling potentially dangerous insects, spiders, and bats, and using computer programs for analysing bat echolocation calls.

Academic Teaching Experience:

- **2024 - 2025** – Lab Instructor for *Psychological Methods and Statistics: Advanced Data Analysis and Methods* course.
The University of Texas at Austin
- **2024** – Teaching Assistant for Dr Audre Duarte’s *Psychology and Neuroscience of Sleep* course.
The University of Texas at Austin
- **2023** – Teaching Assistant for Dr Elliot Tucker-Drob’s *Individual Differences* course.
The University of Texas at Austin

Guest Lectures

- **2025** – “Problems of Kinship and The Evolution of Altruism”. Guest lecture for Dr. David Buss’s Evolutionary Psychology course.
The University of Texas at Austin

Conference Presentations and Posters

- **Dougan, F. S., Metcalfe, K. B., Macias, K., & Meston, C. M.** (2025, Feb 27 – March 2). Infidelity Fears and Mate Value Discrepancies: Predictors of Engagement in “Duty Sex”. [Conference Poster Presentation]. International Society for the Study of Women’s Sexual Health 2025 Annual Meeting. (*Presented by Metcalfe, K. B.*)

Honours and Awards

- **2024 – Best Hypothesis Award: Evolutionary Psychology Graduate Seminar (2nd place)**
The University of Texas at Austin
- **2024 – College of Liberal Arts Summer Fellowship**
The University of Texas at Austin
- **2017 – Best Poster Award – “Development and Phenotypic Plasticity in the Blowfly *Lucilia sericata*”**
The University of Bristol
- **2016 – Top Literature Review Grade Within Year Group – “Allometry and Scaling Relationships in Arthropods”**
The University of Bristol
- **2016 – Best Presentation Award – “Evolutionary Ecology: Ecological Speciation in *Orcinus orca*”**
The University of Bristol

- **2015 – Top Field Research and Report Grade Within Year Group - “Ultrasound Startle-Responses in Neotropical Invertebrates”**
The University of Bristol
- **2014 – Top Essay Grade Within Year Group – “An Evaluation of the Hypotheses for the Origin of Life”**
The University of Bristol
- **2014 – Best Presentation Award – “The Large Blue Butterfly (*Phengaris arion*): Biology, Ecology, and Conservation”**
The University of Bristol

Journal Refereeing Experience

- Evolution and Human Behavior
- Personality and Individual Differences
- Human Nature

Professional Affiliations

- Human Behavior and Evolution Society

Employment:

(2023 - Present) - Teaching Assistant at The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Psychology.

Managing of class information, notes, and grades, on Canvas.

Grading coursework and exams, providing individual feedback to students.

General tuition for undergrad students.

Organising and running lab sessions.

2019-2023 - Research & Development Laboratory Technician at KDC-ONE/Swallowfield Cosmetics, UK.

Developing new cosmetic products and testing new aerosol technologies.

Performing quality control experiments on newly developed products and conducting user trial studies. Conducting market and regulatory research and presenting new products to external companies.

2019-2023 - Part-time Muay Thai Instructor at Ascent Combat Sports, UK.

Ensuring students are safe at all times.

Liaising with potential new students, providing information and addressing queries.

Planning and conducting lessons and one-to-one training, and cornering fighters in competition.

Hobbies and Interests:

My hobbies include Muay Thai (Thai-Boxing) and MMA (mixed martial arts), camping and outdoor adventuring, and playing guitar and piano. I enjoy reading, and discussing/debating history and politics. I also photograph animals (particularly invertebrate species), and I rear ant colonies, spiders, and praying mantises at home.