

Award Winner



Stephanie Nikola MERBT

Stephanie was born in Munich (Germany), 27 February 1981, and is the mother of one child, Eneko, born in Zollikon (Switzerland), 05 December 2015.

CAREER SUMMARY

During her scientific career she has focused on understanding the effect of human activity on freshwater ecosystems and more specifically on how sewage treatment plant effluents impact the structure and function of the stream biofilms of the receiving stream. She combines a great variety of molecular and biogeochemical tools in field and laboratory experiments across different levels of biological organization, from single cell to community and ecosystem scale.

PRESENT POSITION

08/2015 – now Postdoctoral researcher at Department of Environmental Toxicology, Eawag: Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, Switzerland
Research focus: The interaction of microplastic with stream biofilm communities.
Supervisor: Dr Renata Behra.
Maternity leave: 12/2015 - 05/2016

EDUCATION

09/2010 – 01/2015 PhD in Ecology
Faculty of Biology, Department of Ecology, University of Barcelona, Spain
Title: *'Microbial nitrification in urban streams: from single cell activity to ecosystem processes'*

09/2003 – 12/2009 Diploma in Biology,
University of Tübingen, Institute for Evolution and Ecology, Germany
Title: *'Influence of wastewater treatment plant inputs on the recovery of stream biofilms after a flood.'*

09/1997 – 02/2001 Chemical laboratory assistant (apprenticeship)
La Roche Diagnostics, Penzberg, Germany

Subsidiary Prizes



David Alexander MARQUES

Academic Records

Since 2017	Postdoctoral fellow, University of Bern and Eawag, Switzerland. Avdisor: Prof. Ole Seehausen, Prof. Laurent Excoffier.
2016-2017	Postdoctoral fellow, University of Victoria, Canada. Advisor: Prof. Thomas Reimchen.
2012-2016	Ph.D. studies in Ecology and Evolution, University of Bern and Eawag, Switzerland. Supervision: Prof. Ole Seehausen, Prof. Laurent Excoffier and Dr. Catherine Wagner. Thesis: "Population genomics of adaptive radiation: a threespine stickleback perspective"
2007-2009	MSc in Biology, Anthropology, University of Zürich, Switzerland. Supervision: Prof. Carel van Schaik and Dr. Michael Krützen. Thesis: "Molecular evolution of the brain-size gene <i>GLUD2</i> in orangutans (<i>Pongo</i> spp.)"
2004-2007	BSc in Biology, University of Zürich, Switzerland.

Professional Experiences

2010-2011	Orniplan AG, Zürich, Switzerland. Ecological consultant, specialist ornithology.
2004	BirdLife Switzerland, conservation center Neeracherried. Environmental education intern.



Simon BELLE

Simon Belle has conducted his PhD in the Chrono-Environnement laboratory (University of Bourgogne Franche-Comté, France) under the supervision of Laurent Millet, Valérie Verneaux and Michel Magny. His thesis, “What can we learn about past methane cycle in lakes using paleolimnological approaches?”, focused on the response of the benthic food web to environmental and climatic changes. His work has consisted in an innovative combination of techniques from aquatic ecology (stable isotopes, ancient DNA) and paleolimnology (subfossil chironomid). After his PhD, he has been a postdoctoral research fellow in Canada and Estonia to continue investigations on past carbon cycle in lakes.