

# Emily Kopania – *Curriculum Vitae*

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## Current Position

2023 – present      NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
University of Pittsburgh  
Advisor: Dr. Nathan Clark

## Education

2016 – 2022      Organismal Biology and Ecology, Ph.D.  
University of Montana  
Advisor: Dr. Jeffrey Good

2015 – 2016      Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry, M.S.  
University of Southern California  
Advisor: Dr. Matthew Dean

2012 – 2016      Biological Sciences, B.S., *magna cum laude*  
Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, minor  
University of Southern California

## Professional Appointments

2022 – 2023      Postdoctoral Research Associate  
University of Utah  
Advisor: Dr. Nathan Clark

2013 – 2015      Undergraduate Research Assistant  
University of Southern California  
Advisor: Dr. Matthew Dean

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

12. Clark, N. L., A. Kowalczyk, **E. E. K. Kopania**, and M. Chikina. (2025). "Phylogenomic Approaches to Study Adaptive Evolution in Mammals: From Aging to Aquatic Lifestyles." *Annu Rev Genet. Accepted*.
11. **Kopania, E. E. K.** and N. L. Clark. (2025). "Mammalian retinal specializations for high acuity vision evolve in response to both foraging strategies and morphological constraints." *Evol Lett.* qrae072.
10. **Kopania, E. E. K.**, G. W. C. Thomas, C. R. Hutter, S. M. E. Mortimer, C. M. Callahan, E. Roycroft, A. S. Achmadi, W. G. Breed, N. L. Clark, J. A. Esselstyn, K. C. Rowe, J. M. Good. (2025). "Sperm competition intensity shapes divergence in both sperm morphology and reproductive genes across murine rodents." *Evolution*. 79(1):qpae146.  
**Editor's Choice article in the January 2025 issue of *Evolution***
9. Kang, T., E. C. Moore, **E. E. K. Kopania**, C. D. King, B. Schilling, J. Campisi, J. M. Good, R. B. Brem. (2023). "A natural variation-based screen in mouse cells reveals USF2 as a

regulator of the DNA damage response and cellular senescence." *G3 Genes Genom Genet.* 13(7):jkad091.

8. **Kopania, E. E. K.**, E. M. Watson, C. C. Rathje, B. M. Skinner, P. J. I. Ellis, E. L. Larson, J. M. Good. (2022). "The contribution of Y-linked incompatibilities to disrupted spermatogenesis expression and male sterility in hybrid mice." *Genetics.* 222(4):iyac151.
7. Moore, E. C., G. W. C. Thomas, S. Mortimer, **E. E. K. Kopania**, K. E. Hunnicutt, Z. J. Clare-Salzler, E. L. Larson, J. M. Good. (2022). "The evolution of widespread recombination suppression on the Dwarf Hamster (*Phodopus*) X chromosome." *Genome Biol Evol.* 14(6):evac080.
6. **Kopania, E. E. K.**, E. L. Larson, C. Callahan, S. Keeble and J. M. Good. (2022). "Molecular Evolution across Mouse Spermatogenesis." *Mol Biol Evol.* 39(2):msac023.
5. Larson, E. L., **E. E. K. Kopania**, K. E. Hunnicutt, D. Vanderpool, S. Keeble, J. M. Good. (2021). "Stage-specific disruption of X chromosome expression during spermatogenesis in sterile house mouse hybrids." *G3 Genes Genom Genet.* 12(2):jkab407.
4. Skinner, B. M., C. C. Rathje, J. Bacon, E. E. P. Johnson, E. L. Larson, **E. E. K. Kopania**, J. M. Good, G. Yousafzai, N. A. Affara, and P. J. I. Ellis. (2019). "A high-throughput method for unbiased quantitation and categorisation of nuclear morphology." *Biol Reprod.* 100(5):1250–1260.
3. Skinner, B. M., J. Bacon, C. C. Rathje, E. L. Larson, **E. E. K. Kopania**, J. M. Good, N. A. Affara, and P. J. I. Ellis (2019). "Automated Nuclear Cartography Reveals Conserved Sperm Chromosome Territory Localization across 2 Million Years of Mouse Evolution." *Genes* 10(2): 109.
2. Larson, E. L., **E. E. K. Kopania**, and J. M. Good (2018). "Spermatogenesis and the evolution of mammalian sex chromosomes." *Trends Genet* 34(9):722-732.
1. Chang, P. L., **E. Kopania**, S. Keeble, B. Sarver, E. Larson, A. Orth, K. Belkhir, P. Boursot, F. Bonhomme, J. M. Good, and M. D. Dean (2017). "Whole exome sequencing of wild-derived inbred strains of mice improves power to link phenotype and genotype." *Mamm Genome* 28(9-10):416-425.

## Grants and Fellowships (\$403,000 total)

2023	National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology	\$240,000
2023	National Institutes of Health NRSA Ruth Kirschstein Postdoctoral Fellowship (F32)	Declined
2020	University of Montana Dr. Linda Phillips Knoblock Fellowship	\$7000
2020	University of Montana Drollinger-Dial Travel Award	\$1000
2017 – 2020	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow	\$138,000
2017	Society for the Study of Evolution Rosemary Grant Award	\$2500
2017	Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution Young Investigator Travel Award	\$1500
2014, 2015	Rose Hills Undergraduate Research Fellowship	\$10,000
2014	USC Provost Undergraduate Research Fellowship	\$3000

## Honors and Awards

2016	Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society
2016	USC Discovery Scholar Award for Research
2015	Rose Hills Scholarship
2015	Richard M. and Patricia J. Mialovich Scholarship

2014	Albert Fisher Scholarship in Science
2013	USC Academic Achievement Award
2012 – 2016	USC Trojan Scholars Society - Presidential Scholar
2012 – 2016	National Merit Scholar
2012 – 2016	Sylas and Rose Marx Meyer Scholarship

## Presentations

### Invited presentations and presentations selected for symposia

1. **Kopania, E.**, N. Clark. "The evolution of high visual acuity specializations in mammals." Symposium Oral Presentation. 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology. Montreal, Canada, July 26-30, 2024.
2. **Kopania, E.** "The phenotypic and molecular evolution of male reproduction across diverse murine rodents." Oral presentation. University of Denver Biology Seminar Series. Denver, Colorado, April 17, 2023.

### National or international conferences

1. **Kopania, E.**, N. Clark. "Ecological pressures acting on mammalian visual traits." Poster. The Allied Genetics Conference. Washington, D.C., March 6-10, 2024.
2. **Kopania, E.**, G. Thomas, C. Hutter, S. Mortimer et al. "Recurrent shifts in sperm competition intensity shape the phenotypic and molecular evolution of male reproduction across diverse murine rodents." Poster. Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution Annual Meeting. Ferrara, Italy, July 23-27, 2023.
3. **Kopania, E.**, G. Thomas, C. Hutter, S. Mortimer et al. "Rodents of Unusual Sperm: Molecular and Phenotypic Evolution of Male Reproduction in Murine Rodents." Poster. Population, Evolutionary, and Quantitative Genetics Conference. Pacific Grove, California, June 7-10, 2022.
4. **Kopania, E. K.**, Larson, E. L., Good, J. M. "The molecular evolution of spermatogenesis." Poster. Biology of Spermatozoa Conference. Nynäshamn, Sweden, September 9-13, 2019.
5. **Kopania, E. K.**, Larson, E. L., Good, J. M. "The molecular evolution of spermatogenesis." Poster. Population, Evolutionary, and Quantitative Genetics Conference. Madison, Wisconsin, May 13-16, 2018.
6. **Kopania, E. K.**, Larson, E. L., Good, J. M. "Genomic conflict and the evolution of gene copy number in mice." Poster. Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution Annual Meeting. Austin, Texas, July 2-6, 2017.

### Local conferences or seminar series

1. **Kopania, E.**, N. Clark. "Evolution of the retina in mammals and fishes." Oral Presentation. Pittsburgh Center for Evolutionary Biology and Medicine annual retreat. Bedford Springs, Pennsylvania, May 5-6, 2025.
2. **Kopania, E.**, N. Clark. "Mammalian retinal specializations are a main evolutionary response to ecological selective pressures on vision." Oral Presentation. University of Pittsburgh Molecular Evolution Laboratory Discussion. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, April 18, 2024.
3. **Kopania, E.**, N. Clark. "The evolution of teleost retinal specializations." Poster. Sensorium. Chicago, Illinois, November 11-12, 2023.
4. **Kopania, E.**, G. Thomas, C. Hutter, S. Mortimer et al. "Rodents of Unusual Sperm: Molecular and Phenotypic Evolution of Male Reproduction in Murine Rodents." Oral presentation. University of Utah Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics Seminar Series. Salt Lake City, Utah, November 2, 2022.

5. **Kopania, E. K.** “Molecular evolution of spermatogenesis in murine rodents.” Oral presentation, public dissertation defense. University of Montana Ecology and Evolution Seminar Series. Missoula, Montana, January 19, 2022.
6. **Kopania, E. K.** “Genomic conflict and mouse sex chromosome evolution.” Oral presentation. University of Montana Organismal Biology, Ecology, and Evolution Noon Seminar Series. Missoula, Montana, April 7, 2021.
7. **Kopania, E. K.** “Gene expression evolution across spermatogenesis.” Oral presentation. University of Montana Organismal Biology, Ecology, and Evolution Noon Seminar Series. Missoula, Montana, October 2, 2019.
8. **Kopania, E. K.,** Larson, E. L., Good, J. M. “The molecular evolution of spermatogenesis.” Poster. Symposium on the Evolutionary Genomics of Adaptations. Polson, Montana, June 1-3, 2018.
9. **Kopania, E. K.** “Mapping the genes responsible for variation in *Crassostrea gigas* shell morphology.” Poster. University of Southern California Undergraduate Symposium for Scholarly and Creative Work. Los Angeles, California, April 15, 2015.

## Teaching

### Guest Lecturer

2024	BIOSC 1540	University of Pittsburgh	Computational Biology
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### Teaching Assistant

2021	BIOB 171	University of Montana	Principles of Biological Diversity
2017	BIOB 272	University of Montana	Genetics and Evolution
2016	BIOB 101	University of Montana	Discovering Biology

### Other teaching experience

2015 – 2016	Supplemental Instruction Leader	University of Southern California
2015	Student Athlete Tutor	University of Southern California

## Mentorship

### Student-led projects

2024 – present	Justine Denby University of Pittsburgh undergraduate	Project: Molecular evolution of reproductive genes in response to sperm competition in mammals
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### Co-mentored students

2023 – present	Alex Preble, Nico Schwartz, Krista Olson University of Pittsburgh undergraduates
2016 – 2021	Vanessa Knox, Stephenie Horne, Marc Velling, Sarah Wells, Dawit Mengistu University of Montana undergraduates

## Professional Service and Development

### Public engagement and education

2023	Salt Lake City School District Science & Engineering Fair judge
2018 – 2019	Montana Science Fair judge
2017 – 2019	University of Montana EmPower Place volunteer (science learning center at the Missoula Food Bank)

- 2017 – 2019 SciNation volunteer (science education on the Flathead Indian Reservation)
- 2017 University of Montana SpectrUM Discovery Center volunteer
- 2017 We Are Montana in the Classroom (science education in rural Montana)
- 2015 – 2016 USC Science Outreach (SCout) session leader (weekly science lessons and experiments in Los Angeles public schools)
- 2012 – 2013 QuikSCience mentor (guided middle school students through a year-long research and conservation project)

**Diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives**

- 2022 – 2023 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee  
University of Utah Department of Human Genetics
- 2016 – 2022 Women in Science  
University of Montana

**Other Professional service**

- 2024 – present Biology Postdoc Organization board member  
University of Pittsburgh
- 2020 – present Peer reviewer: *Records of the Australian Museum*, *BMC Genomics*, *Nature Communications*, *Genome Biology and Evolution*, *Evolution*, *Molecular Ecology* (2 manuscripts), *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, *PLOS Genetics*, *PeerJ*
- 2024 Postdoc fellowship applications discussion mentor  
3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology
- 2024 Guest editor, *Genome Biology and Evolution*  
“Genomics of Adaptations to Extreme Environments” special section
- 2023 Symposium co-organizer, Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution  
“Genomics of Adaptations to Extreme Environments”
- 2020 – 2021 Graduate student co-president and faculty liaison  
University of Montana, ecology and evolution graduate program
- 2018 – 2019 Graduate and professional student association representative  
University of Montana, ecology and evolution graduate program
- 2017 – 2018 Graduate student super speaker committee  
University of Montana, ecology and evolution graduate program
- 2017 Student evaluation committee  
University of Montana, Division of Biological Science

**Professional Development**

- 2023 Allyship training, Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution
- 2020 LGBTQ+ allies training, University of Montana
- 2018 Evidence-based teaching in science course, University of Montana