

By-laws of the Evolutionary Demography Society

13th October 2020

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1. Purpose

The Evolutionary Demography Society, founded in 2013, is a scientific organization that supports research in evolutionary demography. Evolutionary demography brings together concepts and methods from evolution, population ecology, human demography, anthropology, genetics and genomics, statistics, epidemiology, and public health. Its focus is on how demographic processes influence evolution, and how evolution shapes the demographic properties of organisms across the tree of life. The Society welcomes experimental and theoretical work on any organisms. Its members employ methods including field studies, laboratory experiments, comparative and phylogenetic analyses, mathematics, computer simulations, and theoretical modelling.

2. Society structure and duties

2.1 Structure

The society consists of a board and has more than 360 members as of October 2020. Membership is currently free. Any interested scientist, or non-scientist with a reasonable reason for wanting to join, can become a member. Members subscribe via the website (<https://evodemos.org/membership.html>) to a mailing list. Each member receives and can send emails, job openings, conference calls, and anything of interest to other society members by emailing evodemos@lists.sdu.dk. Members can leave the society and unsubscribe from the mailing list at any time by visiting <http://mls.sdu.dk/mailman/listinfo/evodemos>.

2.2. Board of the society

Board members are recruited from society members, or become members of the society when starting their service. The board consists of board members, a president, and a secretary. Board members and society members can suggest or nominate new board members including themselves. The board arrives at the decision about new board members by consensus of the board, though board members can also be elected by the society members. Nominations can be solicited by the board to replace board members who have stepped down. A Student Board member can be instituted to represent the interests of student members. The president-elect has the authority to appoint a student board member to one year of service.

2.3. Duties and length of service

Members:

- members shall not spam or misuse the mailing list

President:

- the president organises the upcoming annual meeting
- the president chairs a board meeting during the annual meeting
- to ensure continuity and pass experience on, the president commits to serve at least three years as board member (one year before the meeting as President-Elect, the year of the meeting as President, one year after the meeting as Past-President)

Board members:

- board members will be members of the society
- try to attend the annual meetings
- board members need to inform the secretary if they wish to resign from the board
- service of board members should be no longer than four years in a row though exceptions are possible

Secretary:

- the secretary maintains the website, liaises with IT to deal with membership requests and cancellations, and to make sure that all board members are on the society's mailing list
- the secretary distributes announcements to the board and takes minutes at board meetings
- the secretary compiles and updates the by-laws of the society
- the secretary commits to serve three years

2.4. Current board members

Lise Aubry, Colorado State University, US
Hal Caswell, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
Sarah Cubaynes, École Pratique des Hautes Études, France
Jean-Michel Gaillard, University of Lyon and CNRS, France
James Holland Jones, Stanford University, US
Carol Horvitz, University of Miami (Emerita), US
Xiang-Yi Li, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland
Virpi Lummaa, University of Turku, Finland
Jessica Metcalf, Princeton University, US
Samuel Pavard, Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris, France
Deborah Roach, University of Virginia, US
Bernt-Erik Saether, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
Roberto Salguero-Gomez, University of Oxford, UK
Mary Shenk, Pennsylvania State University, US
Richard Shefferson, University of Tokyo, Japan
Ulrich Steiner, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

2.5. Former presidents

James Vaupel, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark
Shripad Tuljapurkar, Stanford University, US
Hal Caswell, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
Deborah Roach, University of Virginia, US
Jean-Michel Gaillard, University of Lyon, France
Carol Horvitz, University of Miami, US
Bernt-Erik Saether, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

2.6. Resigned board members

Anne Bronkowski
James Carey
Tim Coulson
Raz Davison
Tim Gage
Gari Gene
Tom Kirkwood
Tiffany Knight
Dan Levitis
Daniel Nussey
Fannie Pelletier
Shripad Tuljapurkar
James Vaupel
Rudi Westendorp

3. Meetings

3.1. Principles / Traditions

We meet annually, alternating between Europe and North America with the occasional exception of meeting on a different continent, and aim for maximally 100–150 attendants at our meetings. The board will meet during the annual meeting. The timing of the meeting is at the discretion of the president.

To maximize participation and interactions among researchers, we do not have concurrent sessions. Instead, we have a single session with two kinds of presentations: Invited Keynote Speakers (20 minutes talks plus 5 minutes for questions) and Contributed Lightning Talks (5 minutes plus 3–5 minutes for questions). Keynote speakers and lightning talk speakers include scientists from all stages of their careers and show an appropriate gender balance. We aim to offer 2–3 parallel workshops at the end of the meeting which are suggested and led by attendants.

To further facilitate discussions, we aim to provide ample time for breaks, poster sessions, and facilitate poster presentations by hosting them in the break-out space.

We try to accept all reasonable requests for posters and lightning talks but we limit the number of delivered talks to one per person. We want to give ample speaking time to researchers in the early stages of their career and to provide a friendly and inclusive atmosphere. If possible, we recognize outstanding contributions of early career scientists with awards (e.g. Best student lightning talk, Best student poster, Best postdoc lightning talk).

We aim for a low registration fee, especially for attendants in early stages of their career. The Society will not make a profit from the fees and other funds, and if possible, leftover funds will be used for future meetings. The president has the right to waive fees for members of the hosting institution, particularly students.

If possible, meeting hosts should consider offering child-minding facilities during the meeting and should also consider sustainability (vegetarian meal options, re-usable or recyclable dishes, recycling of badges, etc.).

The meeting is opened by the president. During the meeting, attending non-members are encouraged to become members. At the closing, the president installs the president-elect as new president.

3.2. Previous meetings and hosts

2013: October 6-10, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark (James Vaupel)

2014: November 10-12, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, US (Shripad Tuljapurkar)

2015: October 5-7, CongresCentrum de Werelt, Lunteren, The Netherlands (Hal Caswell)

2016: October 2-5, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, US (Deborah Roach)

2018: January 8-10, Domaine Saint Joseph at Sainte-Foy Les Lyon, Lyon, France (Jean-Michel Gaillard)

2019: January 10-12, University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, US (Carol Horvitz)

2020: October 6-11, hosted online and in Røros, Norway (Bernt-Erik Saether)

4. Associated documents

4.1. Logo of the society

Dan Levitis has created the logo of the society. The secretary holds both high- and low-resolution versions of the file.

4.2. Code of conduct

We are in the process of devising a code of conduct to prevent or stop inappropriate behaviour at our meetings and of our members. James Holland Jones will provide a first draft.

4.3. Guidelines for meeting organisation

Board members agreed to compile a document with practical information regarding the organisation of the annual meeting.