



Using effect sizes in behavioural research

NVG PHD WORKSHOP

Wednesday 23 November 2011, 10.00 - 17.30

Kontakt der Kontinenten, Soesterberg <http://www.kontaktderkontinenten.nl>
(preceding the annual NVG meeting)

The annual NVG PhD Workshop will take place in 2011 at Soesterberg. **The goal of these workshops is to facilitate contact and discussion among PhD students in behavioural biology.** Normally there are about 20 PhD students and 3 senior researchers, all of whom will be present throughout the day.

The workshop will consist of three main parts:

1) **Dr Nick Colegrave** of the School of Biological Sciences, University of Edinburgh will be the keynote speaker, and talk about **'Using effect sizes in behavioural research'**. Nick says: ***"For too long now, behavioural biology has been ruled by P values, and we all know how easily the excitement of pressing return can turn into the disappointment of $P = 0.059$. However, there is another way. I will argue that measures of effect size allow us to separate statistical from biological significance, and in doing so often provide more information from our data. I will first introduce effect sizes for the uninitiated. I will then discuss various ways that they can be used to get the most from your data, including the interpretation of non-significant results and avoiding "P value pitfalls". I am not a statistician, and this will not be a statistics talk (in the usual sense), but it may change the way to think about your data."***

2) A series of talks by research students about their work plans (10 minutes talk + 20 minutes discussion). All of the students (including those who are not presenting a talk) + the senior researchers are present and contribute to the discussion. Although not all the students present their work, the discussions typically range across a whole series of general issues related to research (the importance of the research question, the approach chosen, the design of behavioural experiments, data analysis, etc). Starting PhD students (in the first or second year of their PhD research) are particularly encouraged to offer a presentation. Last year, one of the talks that generated the most useful discussion (both for the student and audience) was given by a PhD student who had started their project only 6 weeks before: this is a good chance to think about your project plans and get useful feedback!

3) Small-group discussions about 'acquiring skills'. A chance to exchange experiences about what worked or didn't work, and to get to know some of the other PhD students better.

Provisional program:

Coffee available from 9.30 am

10.00 – 11.00	Nick Colegrave: Using effect sizes in behavioural research
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee & Tea
11.30 – 12.30	Student Talks + Discussion
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 15.00	Student Talks + Discussion
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee & Tea
15.30 – 16.30	Student Talks + Discussion
16.30 – 17.30	Small-group discussion: ‘Acquiring skills’

Registration fee for the PhD workshop: €70, including lunch and tea/coffee

Details of NVG meeting: <http://www.gedragbiologie.nl/Soesterberg2011/>

Register for NVG meeting & PhD workshop:

<http://fd8.formdesk.com/rodenburg/Soesterberg2011/>

For other information on the PhD workshop contact:

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