

Helen F. McCreery, Ph.D.

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Total fellowship & grant funding \$ 337,000

Affiliations and Education

James S. McDonnell Complex Systems Postdoctoral Fellow	2017 -
Harvard University, Computer Science <i>Advisor: Dr. Radhika Nagpal</i>	2018 -
Michigan State University, Integrative Biology BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action <i>Advisor: Dr. Tom Getty</i>	2017 - 2018
Ph.D University of Colorado, Boulder Ecology and Evolutionary Biology <i>Ph.D Advisor: Dr. Michael Breed</i>	2011 - 2017
M.Eng Massachusetts Institute of Technology Environmental Engineering	2006 - 2007
BS Massachusetts Institute of Technology Environmental Engineering, Theater Arts	2002 - 2006

Refereed Publications ([google scholar link](#))

^U Indicates undergraduate mentee

^A Authors listed alphabetically

In review: Ålund, M., Emery, N., Jarrett, B.J.M.^A, MacLeod, K.J.^A, **McCreery, H.F.^A**, Mamoozadeh, N.^A, Phillips, J.G.^A, Schossau, J.^A, Thompson, A.W.^A, Warwick, A.R.^A, Yule, K.M.^A, Zylstra, E.R.^A, Gering, E. "To support a sustainable postdoc workforce, academic ecosystems must evolve."

In review: **McCreery, H.F.** "Cooperative transport" entry for *Encyclopedia of Social Insects*, IUSI.

In preparation: Kao, A.B., Hund, A.K., Bhat, D., Young, J-G., Garland, J., Santos, F.P., Oomen, R.A., **McCreery, H.F. (corresponding)** "A general framework for inferring the drivers of sociality using shifts in resource abundance."

11. **McCreery, H.F.**, Bilek, J.N.^U, Nagpal, R., Breed, M.D. (2019). "Effects of load mass and size on cooperative transport in ants over multiple transport challenges." *Journal of Experimental Biology*, 222. Available online: DOI:10.1242/jeb.206821
10. Sankovitz, M.A.^U, Breed, M.D., **McCreery, H.F.** (2019) "Effects of *Formica podzolica* ant colonies on soil moisture, nitrogen, and plant communities near nests." *Ecological Entomology*. 44:71-80.
9. Hund, A.K., Churchill, A.C.^A, Faist, A.M.^A, Havrilla, C.A.^A, Love Stowell, S.M.^A, **McCreery, H.F.^A**, Ng, J.^A, Scordato, E.S.C. (2018). "Transforming mentoring in STEM by training graduate students and postdocs." *Ecology and Evolution*. 8(20):9962-9974.
One of the journal's most downloaded papers of 2018
8. Esterly, E.E.^U, **McCreery, H.F.**, Nagpal, R. (2017). "Models of adaptive navigation, inspired by ant transport in the presence of obstacles." In: *Proceedings of the Artificial Life Conference 2017, IEEE*. DOI: 10.1109/SSCI.2017.8280899.
Outstanding paper honorable mention

7. **McCreery, H.F.** (2017). "A comparative approach to cooperative transport in ants: individual persistence correlates with group coordination." *Insectes Sociaux*. 64:535-547.
6. **McCreery, H.F.**, Dix, Z.^U, Breed, M.D., Nagpal, R. (2016). "Collective strategy for obstacle navigation during cooperative transport by ants." *Journal of Experimental Biology*. 219: 3366-3375.
5. **McCreery, H.F.**, Correll, N., Breed, M.D., Flaxman, S. (2016). "Consensus or deadlock? Simple behavioral rules and their consequences for coordination in self-organized groups." *PLoS ONE* 11(9): e0162768.
4. Breed, M.D., Cook, C.N., **McCreery, H.**, Rodriguez, M. (2015). "Nestmate recognition in eusocial insects: The honeybee as a model system." In *Social Recognition in Invertebrates*, L. Aquiloni and E. Tricarico, eds, pgs 147-164, Springer.
3. **McCreery, H.F.** and Breed, M.D. (2014). "Cooperative transport in ants: a review of proximate mechanisms." *Insectes Sociaux*. 61: 99-110.
One of the journal's most downloaded papers of 2014
2. Pizzaro, L.C., **McCreery, H.F.**, Lawson, S.P., Winston, M.E., and O'Donnell, S. (2012). "Sodium-specific foraging by leafcutter ant workers (*Atta cephalotes*, Hymenoptera: Formicidae)." *Ecological Entomology*. Vol. 37: 435-348.
1. O'Keefe, K.J., Silander, O.K., **McCreery, H.**, Weinreich, D.M., Wright, K.M., Chao, L., Edwards, S.V., Remold, S.K., and Turner, P.E. (2010). "Geographic differences in sexual reassortment in RNA phage." *Evolution*. Vol. 64: 3010-3023.

Fellowships

Year	Name	Amount
2016	James S McDonnell Complex Systems Postdoctoral Fellowship	\$ 200,000
2016	U of Colorado, Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship	\$ 16,000
2015	U of Colorado, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EBIO) Semester Fellowship	\$ 16,000
2015	U of Colorado, Graduate School Summer Fellowship	\$ 6,000
2012	National Science Foundation Graduate STEM Fellowship in K-12 Education	\$ 30,000
Total Fellowship Funding		\$ 268,000

Grants

Year	Name	Amount
2018	NSF BEACON: "Dynamic spatial allocation in cooperative social groups." Collaborator with F. Dyer (PI), D. Incorvaia, and C. Bohm	\$ 51,997
2015	U of Colorado Dean's Graduate Student Grant	\$ 9,670
2014	U of Colorado, EBIO Department Research Grant	\$ 2,500
2014	U of Colorado Beverly Sears Graduate Student Grant	\$ 1,000
2013	U of Colorado, EBIO Research Grant	\$ 1,200
2013	Sigma Xi Grant-in-aid of research	\$ 600
2013	U of Colorado Beverly Sears Graduate Student Grant	\$ 1,000
2012	U of Colorado, EBIO Research Grant	\$ 1,500
Total Grant Funding		\$ 69,467

Awards

Year	Name
2017	U of Colorado Nominee for CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award in Biological Sciences
2017	EBIO Award for outstanding Teaching Assistant
2016	EBIO Award for outstanding Teaching Assistant
2015	EBIO Award for outstanding Teaching Assistant
2012	Award for outstanding oral presentation in social foraging and decision behavior. IUSSI-NAS Breakout Meeting, Greensboro California

Non-refereed Publications and Press

Breed, M.D. and **McCreery, H.F.** (2014). "Animal behavior: Social recognition in crickets." *Current Biology*. Vol. 24(23): R1123-R1124.

Press features and blog posts

The New York Times: Gorman, James (2016). "How teamwork brings home the tuna in Lego Land." Research feature in The New York Times series *Science Take*. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/15/science/longhorn-crazy-ants.html>.

Scientific American: Harper, Kelso and DeViscio, Jeffery (2019). Research featured in gif column: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/cannibalistic-cancer-protection-from-blast-belly-and-chicken-inner-space-science-gifs-to-start-your-week/>

Scientific American blog: Muth, Felicity (2013). "How do ants coordinate moving huge objects?" Research feature in the blog *Not Bad Science*, *Scientific American*. Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/z3hvb3w>.

Small Pond Science, guest post: **McCreery, H.F.** (2018) "Learning to be a better mentor and leader." <https://smallpondscience.com/2018/10/15/learning-to-be-a-better-mentor-and-leader/>

Insectes Sociaux blog: **McCreery, H.F.** (2017). "Do persistent ants work better together?" Research feature in blog, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/ybjah7zt>

Inside JEB: Knight, Kathryn (2016). "Cooperative ants are more than the sum of their parts." Research feature in *Inside JEB*, *Journal of Exp. Biology*. 219: 3309-3310

Presentations

Invited Seminars & Symposium Presentations

- 2019** Invited symposium presentation: "Enriching undergraduate research experiences by improving mentorship training"
Planned symposium on Undergraduate Education at 2019 Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting, St. Louis (November 2019).

- 2018** Invited project Leader: MBI Collective Behavior Workshop, Mathematical Biosciences Institute, Ohio State University. “Exploring group strategy and cohesion during obstacle navigation.”
Invited symposium presentation: “A comparative approach to cooperative transport: disregarding potentially distracting information can be good.”
Symposium on Information Use in Social Insects at the International Union for the Study of Social Insects (IUSSI) 2018 conference.
- 2017** Invited seminar, Physics of Living Systems group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- 2016** Invited seminar: Jin-Cornell bi-group seminar at JILA (joint physics institute of the University of Colorado and the National Institute of Standards and Technology).
- 2015** Invited symposium talk: “Reaching students through teachers: How to run a science workshop for K-12 teachers.”
SciComm 2015: A symposium on effective science communication. Lincoln, Nebraska; October 2015.
Invited seminar, Self-Organizing Systems Research Group at Harvard University.
- 2014** Invited seminar, Social Insects Research Group at Arizona State University.

Additional Seminars

- 2017** BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action, Seminar Series. Michigan State University.
- 2016** Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. Barro Colorado Island, Panama.
- 2014** Multidisciplinary Graduate School STEMinar series, University of Colorado.

Conference Contributions

- 2019** Animal Behavior Society Meeting
- 2018** American Society of Naturalists Stand Alone Meeting
International Union for the Study of Social Insects Meeting
International Society for Behavioral Ecology Meeting
- 2017** Entomological Society of America National Meeting
IEEE Annual Symposium on Artificial Life (poster & presentation)
- 2016** American Society of Naturalists Stand Alone Meeting
- 2015** Entomological Society of America National Meeting
Guild of Rocky Mountain Ecologists and Evolutionary Biologists Meeting
- 2014** Entomological Society of America National Meeting
Biological Distributed Algorithms Workshop at Distributed Computing (poster)
- 2013** Animal Behavior Society Meeting
- 2012** International Union for the Study of Social Insects – North American Section Breakout Meeting, **won outstanding oral presentation**

Teaching

Animal Behavior Course: Graduate Instructor & Lecturer (2016). 100-student upper division undergraduate course at University of Colorado. Co-taught this course with a professor and three graduate and nine undergraduate teaching assistants; responsible for half the lectures and half of the management and administration of this lecture and lab course.

Leadership and Mentoring in Science: Graduate Instructor (2017). Seminar for graduate students and postdocs at University of Colorado. Co-taught this course with a postdoctoral associate.

Ants of the Southwest: Instructor (2016). Undergraduate and graduate specialty field course at the Southwestern Research Station, Arizona. Co-led this field course as part of a 3-person team.

Science Writing: Graduate leader (2015). Graduate seminar at University of Colorado. Co-led seminar as part of a 3-person team.

Animal Behavior Course: Teaching assistant on 3 occasions (2013, 2014, and 2015). Upper division undergraduate course at University of Colorado. Taught lab sections, developed new labs, and managed lab administration

Genetics, Molecular to Population: Teaching assistant (2015). Lower division undergraduate course at University of Colorado. Taught three recitation sections.

General Biology I & II: Teaching assistant on 3 occasions (2011, 2012, and 2014). Lower division undergraduate course at University of Colorado. Taught two to three lab sections.

Curriculum development: Developer and Guest Lecturer (2015). Developed and taught a week-long teachable unit, including learning goals and assessments, for 32-student upper division course on parasitism. Part of a graduate seminar on data-driven education practices

Graduate NSF STEM Fellow: Life Sciences Teaching Assistant (2012-2013) at Centennial Middle School. Developed and led curriculum and activities for 7th grade, led "Science Club."

Service and Outreach

Reviewer	<i>Nature Scientific Reports, Animal Behaviour, PLOS Computational Biology, Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology, Insectes Sociaux, Journal of Insect Behavior, Behavioural Processes</i>
2019	High School Outreach: Presented "Collective ant behavior" and led discussions in three AP Biology classes John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, Roxbury, Massachusetts
2018	Biology on Tap: Popular science seminar in Lansing, Michigan. "We wish we were ants"
2017	Participated in Diversity Group, to promote diversity and inclusion at the University of Colorado and in STEM
2012 – 2016	Chair of the Graduate Student Science Outreach Committee Organized annual workshop at the University of Colorado for K-12 teachers on teaching contentious science topics, including evolution and climate change. This workshop is attended annually by dozens of teachers from across Colorado. Additional activities include developing annual Evolution Family Day at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History and writing "evolution boxes" for biology courses.

- 2013 – 2016** Led the following reading groups or seminars at the University of Colorado: Quantitative Think Tank, Graduate Writing Coop, Animal Behavior Reading Group, Modeling Group
- 2016** Presented at teaching workshop for K-12 science teachers: “Brood parasites and ‘slave-making’ ants: a teachable unit for evolutionary arms races”
- 2015** Moth Mania: outreach event at the University of Colorado Natural History Museum
Science Discovery: developed and led ant behavior projects for middle and high school students
- 2014** Presented to students at Temple Grandin middle and high school: “Ant behavior”
Designed outreach poster for public visitors to the Biosphere 2 facility in Oracle, AZ: “Obstacle navigation during cooperative transport in ants.”
- 2013** Local Organizing Committee for Animal Behavior Society 2013 Conference