

DOMINIK C. JUD

PhD Student in Evolutionary Biology | Human Evolutionary Ecology Group, University of Zurich | Visiting Student, Evolutionary Ecology Group, University of Cambridge

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SUMMARY

I am a PhD student in evolutionary biology based at the University of Zurich (Human Evolutionary Ecology Group) and a visiting student at the Evolutionary Ecology Group, Zoology Department, University of Cambridge. My research focuses on how population history shapes language evolution, specifically, how demographic processes such as population connectivity and range expansions have driven the diversity of languages we see today. I have a background in anthropology and worked on stress hormones in small-scale societies for my Master's thesis. In addition to my research, I am an officer in the Swiss Army, where I currently hold the rank of Captain.

EDUCATION

PhD in Evolutionary Biology 03/2025 – Present

Human Evolutionary Ecology Group, University of Zurich & Evolutionary Ecology Group, University of Cambridge (visiting)

Supervisor: Prof. Andrea Migliano. Research on language evolution and population history.

MSc Biology 08/2023 – 01/2025

Human Ecology Group, University of Zurich

Thesis: "The influence of different stressors in the diurnal cortisol rhythm in a small-scale society"

Supervisor: Prof. Adrian Jäggi

BSc Biology 09/2020 – 07/2023

University of Zurich, MNF

Swiss Gymnasium (Matura) 2011 – 2018

Kantonsschule Glarus

Gap year to learn Spanish in Costa Rica (2015)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

PhD Researcher, Human Evolutionary Ecology Group, University of Zurich 03/2025 – Present

Visiting Student, Evolutionary Ecology Group, Zoology Dept., University of Cambridge 05/2025 – Present

Technical Employee, Museum of Anthropology / Science Pavilion 05/2024 – 02/2025

Statistics Tutor (first-year students), Institute of Mathematics, UZH 02/2024 – 01/2025

Barkeeper and Event Manager, Kulturzentrum Holästei 09/2018 – 04/2024

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

NCCR Evolving Language Mobility Grant 2026

Awarded CHF 2,000 to support research activities.

Research Grant, A. H. Schulz Foundation 2025

Awarded CHF 3,500 to support research activities.

Equipment Grant, Konrad Heinrich Auer Stiftung 2025

Awarded CHF 2,500 for computing equipment.

PUBLICATIONS IN ACADEMIC JOURNALS

2026 *Not All Stress Is the Same: Variable Associations Between Psychosocial Stressors and Urinary Cortisol Rhythms in a Small-Scale Subsistence Society*

Jud DC, Baettig V, Colby AE, Debras C, Scaff C, Trumble BC, Hutchings L, Baumgarten MD, Cary Ista A, Jaeggi AV

American Journal of Human Biology · 38(2):e70205 · DOI: 10.1002/ajhb.70205

2026 *Us against them: oxytocin response to competition in a small-scale human society*

Debras CCC, Colby AE, Martin JS, Baettig V, Jud DC, Cari Ista A, Canchi Tayo L, Trumble B, Scaff C, Jaeggi AV

Proceedings of the Royal Society B · 293(2070):20260242 · DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2026.0242

2026 *crstools 1.0.0: an R package for cartographic analyses [Preprint]*

Pozzi AV, Pelanek O, Padilla-Iglesias C, Carter EJ, Leonardi M, Fatima A, Stephenson NP, Colucci M, Jud DC, Gunasekaram C, Manica A

2025 *Oxytocin varies across the life course in a sex-specific way in a human subsistence population*

Colby AE, Jud DC, Baettig V, Martin JS, Scaff C, Gurven MD, Trumble BC, Beheim BA, Hooper PL, Cummings DK, Kaplan H, Stieglitz J, Cary Ista A, Jaeggi AV

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences · 122(51):e2509977122 · DOI: 10.1073/pnas.2509977122

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Presented Talks

Different chronic stressors associate differently with morning cortisol levels and diurnal slopes in a small-scale society,

95th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA), Denver, USA 2026

The influence of different stressors on urinary cortisol in a small-scale society,

European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (EHBEA) Annual Conference, Newcastle, UK 2025

Stress and Stressors: The influence of different stressors on the diurnal cortisol rhythms in a small-scale society,

Annual Meeting of the French network for the Evolutionary Study of Humans (FRESH), Lausanne, CH 2024

Presented Posters

Geographical Barriers and Population Connectivity in Oceania,

European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (EHBEA) Annual Conference, Leiden, NL 2026

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Faculty Prize for Outstanding Scientific Work, University of Zurich

2025

Faculty of Sciences, University of Zurich

Awarded for the Master's thesis "The influence of different stressors on the diurnal cortisol rhythms in a small-scale society."

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

South Africa – Kalahari Research Centre

07/2024 – 08/2024

Course in experimental field biology

Bolivia – Human Ecology Group

09/2023 – 12/2023

Data collection with the Tsimane

MILITARY SERVICE

Battalion S2 (Rank of Captain), Swiss Army

2025 – Present

Battalion Level Leadership Course, Commander and Staff Officer School, Lucerne

02/2025 – 03/2025

Platoon Leader (Rank of First Lieutenant), Swiss Army

2021 – 2024

Officer School, NBC Def Sub Officer School and Logistic Officer School

01/2020 – 10/2020

Award: Best Aspiring Officer — extraordinary behaviour in leadership under physical and mental stress.

SKILLS

Languages

German (native)

English (C2)

Spanish (C1)

French (B2)

Latin (small Latinum)

Programming & Statistics

R (advanced)

Python

Unix / bash

Julia

Bayesian statistics

OTHER COMMITMENTS

Board Member, Swiss Alpine Club (SAC) Glarus

2023 – Present

Responsible for environmental protection and sustainable use of the alpine environment

Co-President, Junge Grüne Glarus

2020 – 2021

Establishment of a new political party and structures for motivated young politicians

Conservation and Ecotourism

2014 – Present

Tour guide for FIRMM-España (2014, 2019, 2020); front desk at Naturzentrum Glarus (2018)