

# Laboratory of Compared Ethology and Cognition - Presentation



The general framework of our research unit is the study of animal behavior, and in particular, communication and reproduction of birds; we establish a link between these two problems by undertaking research relating to the influence of vocal communication on reproduction.

**Two principal topics merge the research themes of all the members of the Laboratory.**

- On the one hand, **the study of information transmission and communication, social and cognitive contexts** :

- **Vocal communication in passerine birds**  
([L. Nagle](#), [E. Vallet](#), [T. Draganoiu](#), [S. Derégnaucourt](#))
- **Use of public information in domestic canaries and pigeons**  
([G. Leboucher](#), [D. Bovet](#), [Amy Mathieu](#), [A. Belguermi](#))
- **Communication and cognitive competences in grey parrots and budgerigars**  
([M. Kreutzer](#) , [L. Nagle](#), [D. Bovet](#), [M. Lalot](#))
- **Human speech**  
([F. Hallé](#))

- And on the other hand, the study of parental investment and reproductive success of the bird :

- **Parental investissement, maternal effects, reproductive succes**  
([G. Leboucher](#), [D. Ung](#))
- **Social environnement, reproductive strategies and reproductive succes**  
([M. Kreutzer](#), [L. Nagle](#), [N. Béguin](#))

- Transversally to these topics, we take part in a **multidisciplinary project about urban feral pigeons** "[Le pigeon en ville: Ecologie de la réconciliation et biodiversité urbaine](#)". This project integrates studies from ecological, ethological and anthropological perspectives to explore pigeons' behavioural and physiological adaptations to urban life and their perception by city dwellers.

([G. Leboucher](#), [D. Bovef](#), [A. Belguermi](#))

**For several years we have established collaborations which have allowed us to extend our work towards questions where the know-how of other was necessary.**

- With **Professor Manfred Gahr** ([The Max Planck Institute](#), Seewiesen, Germany, then University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands) we have collaborated for 10 years in the field of the neuroanatomy and electrophysiology.
- With **Professor Roderick Suthers** (University of Bloomington, Indiana, the USA) we have studied, since 1998, how driving constraints determine the use of the vocal bodies at the time of bird song production.
- Since 1995, we have worked in close cooperation with **Irina Beme, Professor** at the university of Moscow, studying the influence of social condition on the vocal production of cock birds.
- Since 2003, bilateral exchanges with the team of **Professor Paulo Gama Mota** ([University of Coimbra](#), Portugal) allow us to study bird song as a factor of regulation of social life during reproduction in two species of birds phylogenetically close, the canary and the canary cini.
- Since 2007, we work with **Dr. Sarah-Jane Vick** on self-control in grey parrots
- A collaboration with the team of **Professor Giorgio Malacarne** ([Università del Piemonte Orientale](#), Alessandria, Italy) is in process. We will do comparative studies of parental investment in various altricial and precocial species.

These collaborations are carried out within the structure of contracts, bilateral missions, co-supervisions of theses, invitations of professors by means of University Université Paris Nanterre financing or within the structure of conventions between Universities.

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## Contact

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