Dr Josh A. Firth
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Current & Previous Positions

Associate Professor	University of Leeds	Jan 2024 – Present
Visiting Researcher	University of Oxford	Jan 2024 – Present
Director (Statistical Consultancy)	Macro Science Ltd	Nov 2022 – Present
Independent Research Fellow	University of Oxford	Sep 2022 – Jan 2024
Senior Associate; Data Science	Reckitt; Emerging Science	Mar 2022 – Sep 2022
Researcher & Data Scientist	Reckitt; Medical Insights	Jan 2021 – Mar 2021
BBSRC Discovery Fellowship	University of Oxford	Mar 2019 – Sep 2022
Junior Research Fellowship	Merton College, Oxford	Oct 2017 – Oct 2020
EGI Research Fellowship	University of Oxford	May 2016 – Oct 2017
D.Phil. Zoology	University of Oxford	Oct 2012 – Jun 2016
B.Sc. Biology (1st Class)	University of Sheffield	Sep 2009 – Jun 2012

Grants

Jul 2024	FBS Industrial Engagement Fund	£1,000
Nov 2023–25	WildAI Large Research Grant (PI – 2yr)	$100,000
Sep 2022–27	NERC Independent Research Fellowship (PI – 5yr)	£786,711
Jul 2020	Merton College Additional Research Funds Award (PI – 1yr)	£1,922
Mar 2020–22	Oxford Excellence Recognition – Salary Enhancement	£2,506
Aug 2019–20	OXBER Seed Grant (Co-Investigator)	£16,643
Apr 2019–22	NERC Standard Grant (Co-Investigator)	£804,076
Mar 2019–22	BBSRC Discovery Fellowship Award (PI – 3yr)	£374,663
Jan 2018–20	Merton College Additional Research Funds Award (PI – 3yr)	£9,000
Apr 2018	ISBE Travel Award	£800
Oct 2017	Merton College Junior Research Fellowship (PI – 3yr)	£123,687
May 2016	EGI Research Fellowship (PI – 1.5yr)	£47,025
Mar 2016	ISBE Travel Award	£375
Oct 2015	DPhil Studentship Extension (0.5yr)	£7,026
Oct 2012–15	NERC Studentship (3yr)	£41,463
Dec 2015	Academic Development Fund LMH Award	£300
Feb 2015	Academic Development Fund LMH Award	£300
Feb 2014	Academic Development Fund LMH Award	£300
Oct 2012	LMH MPLS Divisional Award	£2,000
Jun 2012	Highest undergraduate mark	£100
Jun 2011	Highest mark in 2nd year	£50

Supervised Studentships

PhD Supervision:	11 PhD students (6 completed, 5 ongoing)	
Oct 2026–2030	YES DTN Studentship	~£120,000
Oct 2023–2027	NERC DTP iCase Studentship	~£106,000
Oct 2023–2027	MRC DTP iCase Studentship	~£116,000
Oct 2022–2026	Newton-Abraham DPhil Studentship	£100,000
Oct 2020–24	Fully Funded EGI Studentship (Co-Supervisor)	~£67,140
Oct 2019–23	Fully Funded EGI Studentship (Co-Supervisor)	~£67,140

Awards/Prizes

Oct 2023	USERN 2023 Scientific Medal – Silver – Life Sciences
Apr 2021	Roy. Soc. Rapid Assist. Modelling Pandemic ECI Award
Jul 2020	Royal Society Hooke Scientific Meeting – Age & Society (Lead Organiser)
Sep 2017	Publons Top #2 Reviewer (2/322) Oxford University
May 2016	Oxford MPLS Exceptional DPhil Acknowledgment
Jul 2012	A R Clapham Prize – Exceptional Undergraduate

Teaching Experience

2024–Present	Social Biology Module, School of Biology, University of Leeds
2024–Present	Advanced Topics in Behaviour Module, University of Leeds
2023–2024	Oxford Biology Undergraduate Synthesis Sessions – Networks
2018–Present	Lead Supervision & Co-supervision of PhD students
2017–2024	Assessment of undergraduate examinations for Department of Zoology
2017–2024	Undergraduate lectures for Department of Zoology, Oxford
2016–Present	Assisting with supervision of PhD students
2015–Present	Supervising undergraduate/master's research projects
Feb 2019	DPhil training workshops: "making research available to children"
2015–16	Supervising master's research student
2014	Tutorials in Group Living, Collective Behaviour and Social Networks
2014	Assisting with teaching Animal Behaviour undergraduate module
2014	Teaching for Oxford Continuing Education Department: Ornithology
2013	Tutorials in Sexual Selection and Animal Behaviour
2013	Quantitative Methods undergraduate module

Publications

Preprints and submitted manuscripts

Firth JA et al. Beware the self-confirming observer: hidden circularities in AI-driven ecology. *In review at* Nature Reviews Biodiversity.

Abraham AD, **Firth JA**, Sheldon BC. Wild great tits show social resilience in response to partner loss. *In review*. Preprint DOI: 10.64898/2026.09.15.751691

Salguero-Gómez R et al., **Firth JA** et al. Support for the social buffering hypothesis, especially under unpredictable precipitation regimes. *In revision*. Preprint DOI: 10.1101/2025.04.30.651380

Mitchell LS et al. & **Firth JA**. Pair-bonding beyond breeding snapshots: social relationship trajectories across the life course. *Invited submission*. Preprint DOI: 10.22541/authorea.15007780/v1

Newman E, Knowles S & **Firth JA**. The Friendship Paradox across animal social systems is governed by network structure and biological features. *In revision*. Preprint DOI: 10.64898/2026.03.24.713537

Raulo A, Hanski E, Lamberth C, **Firth JA** & Knowles SCL. Interspecific social contacts spread gut microbiota in wild rodent communities. Preprint DOI: 10.64898/2026.11.04.764353

Firth JA et al. Analysing the Social Spread of Behaviour: Integrating Complex Contagions into Network Based Diffusions. *In revision*. Preprint DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2012.08925

Albery G et al. & **Firth JA**. Local density shapes complete brood failure across species boundaries in two sympatric songbirds. *In revision*. Preprint DOI: 10.64898/2026.07.02.734466

Published and accepted

[90] Jarić I et al., **Firth JA** et al. 2026. Behavioral diversity knowledge shortfall in biodiversity conservation. **Trends in Ecology & Evolution**; DOI: 10.1016/j.tree.2026.09.002

[89] Courchamp F et al., **Firth JA** et al. 2026. Total biomass to quantify the magnitude of biological invasion: reply to Haubrock and Tarkan (2026). **BioScience**; DOI: 10.1093/biosci/biag118

[88] Rabin GHT et al. & **Firth JA**. 2026. Sex-based differences in social trade-offs in a wild bird society. **Animal Behaviour**; DOI: 10.1016/j.anbehav.2026.123681

[87] Dunning J, Banyard A, **Firth JA**, James J & Ward AI. 2026. A birder's guide to High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza. **British Birds** 119: 62–66.

[86] Jarić I, Pipek P, Canavan S, **Firth JA** & Bertram MG. 2026. The creeping normality of AI in the life sciences. **Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment**; DOI: 10.1002/fee.70059

[85] Reichert MS, **Firth JA**, Troisi C & Quinn JL. 2026. Social structure and social stability predict learning, scrounging, and feeding rate in foraging flocks of wild songbirds. **The American Naturalist**; *In press*. DOI: 10.1086/743609

[84] Mikula P et al., **Firth JA** et al. 2026. Harnessing iEcology data to uncover invasive species behaviour. **Methods in Ecology and Evolution**; DOI: 10.1111/2041-210x.70266

[83] Courchamp F et al., **Firth JA** et al. 2026. Quantifying the magnitude of biological invasions using total biomass. **BioScience**; DOI: 10.1093/biosci/biaf195

[82] Woodman JP, Cole EF, **Firth JA** & Sheldon BC. 2026. Age specificity in territory quality and spatial structure in a wild bird population. **The American Naturalist**; DOI: 10.1086/738329

[81] Firth JA et al. 2025. Consider the costs of connectivity when creating a well-connected Earth. **Nature Reviews Biodiversity**; DOI: 10.1038/s44358-025-00110-4

[80] Deenik J et al., **Firth JA** et al. & Firth J. 2025. Lifestyle psychiatry: a conceptual framework for application in mental health care and support. **BMJ Mental Health**; DOI: 10.1136/bmjment-2025-301980

[79] Albery G, Becker D, **Firth JA** et al. 2025. Density-dependent network structuring within and across wild animal systems. **Nature Ecology & Evolution**; DOI: 10.1038/s41559-025-02843-z

[78] Dunning J, **Firth JA** & Ward A. 2025. The spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza virus is a social network problem. **PLOS Pathogens**; DOI: 10.1371/journal.ppat.1013233

[77] Gokcekus S, **Firth JA** et al. 2025. Different types of social links contrastingly shape reproductive traits in a multi-level society of wild songbirds. **Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology**; DOI: 10.1007/s00265-025-03594-4

[76] Abraham AD, Sheldon BC & **Firth JA**. 2025. Timing and social dynamics of divorce in wild great tits: a phenomenological approach. **Proceedings of the Royal Society B**; DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2024.3065

[75] Van Doren B, DeSimone J, **Firth JA** et al. 2025. Social associations across species during nocturnal bird migration. **Current Biology**; DOI: 10.1016/j.cub.2024.12.033

[74] Troisi C, **Firth JA** et al. 2025. Effects of fine-scale changes in resource access and social stability on the sociality of foraging flocks of wild birds. **Animal Behaviour**; DOI: 10.1016/j.anbehav.2024.123071

[73] Jones CV, Regan C, Cole EF, **Firth JA**, Sheldon BC. 2025. Shared environmental similarity between relatives influences heritability of reproductive timing in wild great tits. **Evolution**; DOI: 10.1093/evolut/qpae155

[72] Woodman J et al. & **Firth JA**, Sheldon BC. 2025. Continent-wide drivers of spatial synchrony in age structure across wild great tit populations. **Ecology Letters**; DOI: 10.1111/ele.70079

[71] Firth JA et al. 2024. Understanding age and society using natural populations. **Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B**; DOI: 10.1098/rstb.2022.0469

[70] Pung R, **Firth JA** et al. 2024. Temporal contact patterns and the implications for predicting superspreaders and planning of targeted outbreak control. **Journal of the Royal Society Interface**; DOI: 10.1098/rsif.2024.0358

[69] Rudd L, Packer C, Biro D, **Firth JA** & Albery G. 2024. Sex-specific social ageing in wild African lions. **Current Biology**; DOI: 10.1016/j.cub.2024.07.040

[68] Miketinas D, Luo H, **Firth JA** et al. 2024. Macronutrient and Micronutrient Intake Among US Women Aged 20 to 44 Years. **JAMA Network Open**; DOI: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.38460

[67] Jarić I, Firth J, Roll U, **Firth JA**. 2024. Mental Health Culturomics. **PLOS Mental Health**; DOI: 10.1371/journal.pmen.0000135

[66] Albery G et al. & **Firth JA**. 2024. Divergent age-related changes in parasite infection occur independently of behaviour and demography in a wild ungulate. **Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B**; DOI: 10.1098/rstb.2023.0508

[65] Firth J et al., **Firth JA** et al. 2024. Using physical health apps to promote healthy lifestyles in youth mental healthcare: A nationwide perspective-gathering exercise of over 400 service users. **Psychiatry Research**; DOI: 10.1016/j.psychres.2024.116187

[64] Woodman J et al. & **Firth JA**. 2024. The ecology of ageing in wild societies: linking age structure and social behaviour in natural populations. **Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B**; DOI: 10.1098/rstb.2022.0464

[63] Raulo A, Buerkner P, Dale J, English H, Finerty G, Lamberth C, **Firth JA**, Coulson T, Knowles S. 2024. Social and environmental transmission spread different sets of gut microbes in wild mice. **Nature Ecology & Evolution**; DOI: 10.1038/s41559-024-02381-0

[62] McMahon K et al. & **Firth JA***. 2024. Social network centrality predicts dietary decisions in a wild bird population. **iScience**; DOI: 10.1016/j.isci.2024.109581

[61] Firth J et al. & **Firth JA**. 2024. From “online brains” to “online lives”: understanding the individualized impacts of Internet use across psychological, cognitive and social dimensions. **World Psychiatry**; DOI: 10.1002/wps.21188

[60] Beck K, Farine D, **Firth JA** & Sheldon B. 2023. Variation in local population size predicts social network structure in wild songbirds. **Journal of Animal Ecology**; DOI: 10.1111/1365-2656.14015

[59] Beck K, Regan C, McMahon K, Crofts S, Cole E, **Firth JA** & Sheldon B. 2023. Experimental manipulation of local population density in wild great tits (*Parus major*) alters local social structure but has little effect on information acquisition. **Animal Behaviour**; DOI: 10.1016/j.anbehav.2023.12.010

[58] Schofield D, Albery G, **Firth JA** et al. 2023. Automated face recognition using deep neural networks produces robust primate social networks and sociality measures. **Methods in Ecology and Evolution**; DOI: 10.1111/2041-210X.14181

[57] Beck K, Sheldon B & **Firth JA**. 2023. Social learning mechanisms shape transmission pathways through replicate local social networks of wild birds. **eLife**; DOI: 10.7554/eLife.85703

[56] Gokcekus S, **Firth JA** et al. 2023. Social familiarity and spatially variable environments independently determine reproductive fitness in a wild bird. **The American Naturalist**; DOI: 10.1086/724382

[55] Jarić I, Correia R, Bonaiuto M, Brook B, Courchamp F, **Firth JA** et al. 2023. Transience of public attention in conservation science. **Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment**; DOI: 10.1002/fee.2598

[54] Woodman J, Cole E, **Firth JA** et al. 2022. Disentangling the causes of age-assortative mating in bird populations with contrasting life-history strategies. **Journal of Animal Ecology**; DOI: 10.1111/1365-2656.13851

[53] Regan C, Beck K, McMahon K, Crofts S, **Firth JA** & Sheldon B. 2022. Social phenotype-dependent selection of social environment in wild great tits: an experimental study. **Proceedings of the Royal Society B**; DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2022.1602

[52] Sturrock NJ, Hatchwell BJ, **Firth JA** & Green JP. 2022. Who to help? Helping decisions in a cooperatively-breeding bird with redirected care. **Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology**; DOI: 10.1007/s00265-022-03190-w

[51] Albery GF et al. & **Firth JA**. 2022. Ageing red deer alter their spatial behaviour and become less social. **Nature Ecology & Evolution**; DOI: 10.1038/s41559-022-01817-9

[50] Pung R, **Firth JA** et al. 2022. Using high-resolution contact networks to evaluate SARS-CoV-2 transmission and control in large-scale multi-day events. **Nature Communications**; DOI: 10.1038/s41467-022-29522-y

[49] Finch D, Schofield H, **Firth JA** & Mathews F. 2022. Social networks of the greater horseshoe bat during the hibernation season: a landscape-scale case study. **Animal Behaviour**; DOI: 10.1016/j.anbehav.2022.03.019

[48] Gokcekus S, **Firth JA** et al. 2022. Drivers of passive leadership in wild songbirds: species-level differences and spatio-temporally dependent intraspecific effects. **Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology**; DOI: 10.1007/s00265-021-03103-3

[47] Beck K & **Firth JA**. 2022. Animal Behaviour: Innovation in the city. **Current Biology**; DOI: 10.1016/j.cub.2021.08.025

[46] Jarić I, Roll U, Bonaiuto M, Brook B, Courchamp F, **Firth JA** et al. 2022. Societal extinction of species. **Trends in Ecology & Evolution**; DOI: 10.1016/j.tree.2021.12.011

[45] Gartland L, **Firth JA** et al. & Ioannou C. 2021. Sociability as a personality trait in animals: methods, causes and consequences. **Biological Reviews**; DOI: 10.1111/brv.12823

[44] Arlidge WNS, **Firth JA** et al. 2021. Assessing information-sharing networks within small-scale fisheries and the implications for conservation interventions. **Royal Society Open Science**; DOI: 10.1098/rsos.211240

[43] Gamelon M, **Firth JA**, Salguero-Gomez R. 2021. Longitudinal demographic data collection - Chapter in 'Demographic Methods across the Tree of Life'. **Oxford University Press**; DOI: 10.1093/oso/9780198838609.003.0005

[42] Firth JA & Sheldon BC. 2021. The long reach of family ties. **Science**; DOI: 10.1126/science.abj5234

[41] Gokcekus S, **Firth JA** et al. 2021. Recognising the key role of individual recognition in social networks. **Trends in Ecology & Evolution**; DOI: 10.1016/j.tree.2021.06.009

[40] Gokcekus S, Cole E, Sheldon B & **Firth JA**. 2021. Exploring the causes and consequences of cooperative behaviour in wild animal populations using a social network approach. **Biological Reviews**; DOI: 10.1111/brv.12757

[39] Reichert M, Morand-Ferron J, Kulahci I, **Firth JA** et al. 2021. Cognition and covariance in the producer-scrounger game. **Journal of Animal Ecology**; DOI: 10.1111/1365-2656.13551

[38] Raulo A, Allen B, Troitsky T, Husby A, **Firth JA**, Coulson T & Knowles SCL. 2021. Social networks strongly predict the gut microbiota of wild mice. **The ISME Journal**; DOI: 10.1038/s41396-021-00949-3

[37] Albery GF et al. & **Firth JA**. 2021. Multiple spatial behaviours govern social network positions in a wild ungulate. **Ecology Letters**; DOI: 10.1111/ele.13684

[36] Firth JA et al. 2020. Exploring the Impact of Internet Use on Memory and Attention Processes. **International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health**; DOI: 10.3390/ijerph17249481

[35] Culina A, **Firth JA**, Hinde C. 2020. Familiarity breeds success: pairs that meet earlier experience increased breeding performance in a wild bird population. **Proceedings of the Royal Society B**; DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2020.1554

[34] Albery GF, Kirkpatrick L, **Firth JA**, Bansal S. 2020. Unifying spatial and social network analysis in disease ecology. **Journal of Animal Ecology**; DOI: 10.1111/1365-2656.13356

[33] Firth JA et al. 2020. Using a real-world network to model localized COVID-19 control strategies. **Nature Medicine**; DOI: 10.1038/s41591-020-1036-8

[32] Reichert M, Crofts S, Davidson G, **Firth JA** et al. 2020. Individual and social determinants of spatial learning performance in a multi-species field-system. **Royal Society Open Science**; DOI: 10.1098/rsos.192107

[31] Jarić I, Correia RA, Brook BW, Buettel JC, Courchamp F, Di Minin E, **Firth JA** et al. 2020. iEcology: harnessing the Big Data revolution to gain insights into the natural world. **Trends in Ecology & Evolution**; DOI: 10.1016/j.tree.2020.03.003

[30] Firth JA. 2020. Considering Complexity: Animal Social Networks and Behavioural Contagions. **Trends in Ecology & Evolution**; DOI: 10.1016/j.tree.2019.10.009

[29] Firth JA et al. 2020. Handgrip strength is associated with hippocampal volume and white matter hyperintensities in major depression and healthy controls: a U.K. Biobank study. **Psychosomatic Medicine**; DOI: 10.1097/PSY.0000000000000753

[28] Roth AM, **Firth JA** et al. 2019. Partner's age, not social environment, predicts extrapair paternity in wild great tits (*Parus major*). **Behavioral Ecology**; DOI: 10.1093/beheco/arz151

[27] Bosse M, Spurgin LG, Laine VN, Cole EF, **Firth JA** et al. 2019. On the importance of time scales when studying adaptive evolution: response to Perrier and Charmantier. **Evolution Letters**; DOI: 10.1002/evl3.112

[26] Jackson S, **Firth JA** et al. 2019. Social isolation and physical activity mediate associations between free bus travel and wellbeing among older adults in England. **Journal of Transport & Health**; DOI: 10.1016/j.jth.2019.03.006

[25] Ioannou C, Rocque F, Herbert-Read J, Duffield C, **Firth JA**. 2019. Predators attacking virtual prey reveal the costs and benefits of leadership. **PNAS**; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1816323116

[24] Firth J, Torous J, Stubbs B, **Firth JA** et al. 2019. The "online brain": how the Internet may be changing our cognition. **World Psychiatry**; DOI: 10.1002/wps.20617

[23] Somveille M, **Firth JA** et al. 2018. Movement and conformity interact to establish local behavioural traditions in animal populations. **PLOS Computational Biology**; DOI: 10.1371/journal.pcbi.1006647

[22] Firth JA et al. 2018. Personality shapes pair bonding in a wild bird social system. **Nature Ecology & Evolution**; DOI: 10.1038/s41559-018-0670-8

[21] Firth JA et al. 2018. Spatial, temporal and demographic based differences in wild great tits' nest-site visits and the consequences for reproduction. **Journal of Avian Biology**; DOI: 10.1111/jav.01740

[20] Firth J, **Firth JA** et al. 2018. Association Between Muscular Strength and Cognition in People With Major Depression or Bipolar Disorder and Healthy Controls. **JAMA Psychiatry**; DOI: 10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2018.0503

[19] Firth S, **Firth JA***. 2018. How do birds cope with losing members of their group? **Frontiers in Young Minds**; DOI: 10.3389/frym.2018.00008 *joint lead author

[18] Firth J, Stubbs B, Vancampfort D, **Firth JA** et al. 2018. Grip Strength Is Associated With Cognitive Performance in Schizophrenia and the General Population: An UK Biobank Study of 476 559 Participants. **Schizophrenia Bulletin**; DOI: 10.1093/schbul/sby034

[17] Firth JA et al. 2017. Indirectly connected: simple social differences can explain the causes and apparent consequences of complex social network positions. **Proceedings of the Royal Society B**; DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2017.1939

[16] Bosse M, Spurgin LG, Laine VN, Cole EF, **Firth JA** et al. 2017. Recent natural selection causes adaptive evolution of an avian polygenic trait. **Science**; DOI: 10.1126/science.aal3298

[15] Firth J, Stubbs B, Vancampfort D, Schuch FB, Rosenbaum S, Ward PB, **Firth JA** et al. 2017. The Validity and Value of Self-reported Physical Activity and Accelerometry in People With Schizophrenia: A Population-Scale Study of the UK Biobank. **Schizophrenia Bulletin**; DOI: 10.1093/schbul/sbx149

[14] Firth JA et al. 2017. Wild birds respond to flockmate loss by increasing their social network associations to others. **Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences**; 284 (1854): 20170299; DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2017.0299

[13] Johnson KVA, Aplin LM, Cole EF, Farine DR, **Firth JA**, Patrick SC, Sheldon BC. 2017. Male great tits assort by personality during the breeding season. **Animal Behaviour**; 128: 21–32; DOI: 10.1016/j.anbehav.2017.04.001

[12] Firth JA. 2016. Carry-over and consequences of social connections amongst wild birds. University of Oxford. DPhil Thesis.

[11] Firth JA & Sheldon BC. 2016. Social carry-over effects underpin trans-seasonally linked structure in a wild bird population. **Ecology Letters**; 19 (11): 1324–1332; DOI: 10.1111/ele.12669

[10] Voelkl B, **Firth JA** & Sheldon BC. 2016. The socio-ecology of fear: Nonlethal predator effects on the social composition of wild bird flocks. **Scientific Reports**; 6: 33476; DOI: 10.1038/srep33476

[9] Firth JA et al. 2016. Pathways of information transmission amongst wild songbirds follow experimentally imposed changes to social foraging structure. **Biology Letters**; 12 (6): 20160144; DOI: 10.1098/rsbl.2016.0144

[8] Crates RA, **Firth JA*** et al. 2016. Individual variation in winter supplementary food consumption and its consequences for reproduction in wild birds. **Journal of Avian Biology**; DOI: 10.1111/jav.00936 *joint lead author

[7] Firth JA et al. 2015. Experimental Evidence that Social Relationships Determine Individual Foraging Behavior. **Current Biology**; 25 (23): 3138–3143; DOI: 10.1016/j.cub.2015.09.075

[6] Firth JA & Sheldon BC. 2015. Experimental manipulation of avian social structure reveals segregation is carried over across contexts. **Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences**; 282 (1802): 20142350; DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2014.2350

[5] Firth JA et al. 2015. The influence of nonrandom extra-pair paternity on heritability estimates derived from wild pedigrees. **Evolution**; 69(5): 1336–1344; DOI: 10.1111/evo.12649

[4] Farine DR, **Firth JA*** et al. 2015. The role of social and ecological processes in structuring animal populations: a case study from automated tracking of wild birds. **Royal Society Open Science**; 2(4): 150057; DOI: 10.1098/rsos.150057 *joint lead author

[3] Aplin LM, **Firth JA** et al. 2015. Consistent individual differences in the social phenotypes of wild great tits, *Parus major*. **Animal Behaviour**; 108: 117–127; DOI: 10.1016/j.anbehav.2015.07.016

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Presentations

Invited Seminars:

Feb 2026	Nottingham University; *School of Life Sciences Seminar Series*
Oct 2025	Reimagine Ageing Initiative; Leeds University
Feb 2024	Royal Society Meeting; *Age & Sociality*
Sep 2023	Frontiers in Social Evolution; *FINE seminar series*
Jun 2023	Newcastle University; Behavioural Sciences and Psychology seminar series
Apr 2023	Leeds University: *Behaviour, Ecology & Evolution seminar series*
Nov 2022	Sheffield University; *Ecology, Evolution and Environment seminar series*
Feb 2022	Reckitt Health; *Insights into Medical Affairs seminar series*
May 2021	Exeter University; *Centre for Ecology & Conservation seminar series*
Nov 2020	Georgetown University; *Disease Ecology & Network Epidemiology seminar*
Nov 2020	Cambridge University; *Behaviour, Ecology and Evolution seminar series*
Dec 2019	Imperial College London; *Ecology & Evolution seminar series*
Oct 2019	Oxford University; *Edward Grey Institute seminar series*
May 2019	Edinburgh University; *Institute of Evolutionary Biology Departmental seminar series*
Mar 2019	Leeds University; *Ecology and Evolution seminar series*
Mar 2019	Sheffield University; *Ecology, Evolution and Environment seminar series*
Oct 2017	Cork University; *Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences seminar series*
Apr 2017	Chester University; *LivLabs Social Network Analysis invited plenary*
Mar 2017	OOS; *Oxford Ornithological Society lecture series*
Nov 2016	Exeter University; *Research in Animal Behaviour seminar series*
Nov 2016	Bristol University; *Workshops in Ecology and Behaviour seminar series*

Selected Conference/Workshop Events:

2027	Keynote Talk: Avian Ecology & One-Health	BOU, Nottingham, 6–8 Apr
2025	Keynote Talk: Social Ageing and Health	ATINER, Athens, 28–31 Jul
2025	Keynote Talk: Age and Sociality	ICT4Ageing, Porto, 6–8 Apr
2024	Invited Talk: Co-infections & Age	Edinburgh, 2–4 Dec
2024	Invited Talk: Comparative Networks	Washington DC, 18–22 Nov
2024	Keynote Talk: Statistical Research Workshop	Leeds, 1–2 Jul
2024	Workshop Member: Lifestyle Psychiatry	Palma, Spain, 16–19 Jul
2024	Host Talk: Age & Sociality	London, 26–27 Feb
2023	Invited Talk: iEcology and Culturomics	Paris, 14–16 Nov

2023	Workshop Member: Measuring Invasions	France, 8–14 Oct
2023	Plenary Talk: People, Animals & Waste Systems	Oxford, 27–28 Mar
2022	Plenary Talk: Chinese Biodiversity Conference	Beijing (Online), 11 Nov
2020	SEARG 2020 Conference	Edinburgh 16–17 Jun
2019	BBSRC Biennial Fellows Conference	Glasgow, 18–19 Jun
2019	Oxford Ageing Symposium – Zoology	Oxford, 5 Jun
2018	17th International Behavioural Ecology Congress	Minneapolis, 11–16 Aug
2016	16th International Behavioural Ecology Congress	Exeter, 28 Jul-3 Aug
2015	34th International Ethological Conference	Cairns, 9–14 Aug
2014	15th International Behavioural Ecology Congress	New York, 31 Jul-5 Aug
2013	Zoology, Oxford University Induction Day PRS	Oxford, 8 Oct
2013	EGI student conference	Oxford, 10–11 Jan

Selected Media Involvement and Coverage

2026	OneGeo: Reducing the Risks of Wildlife Corridors https://onegeo.com/sustainable-human-habitats/human-occupied-areas/sustainable-transport-networks/university-of-leeds-reducing-the-risks-of-wildlife-corridors-post
2025	ZME Science: Bird Divorce https://www.zmescience.com/ecology/animals-ecology/scientists-spied-on-great-tits-all-winter-and-caught-them-drifting-apart-toward-divorce/
2024	Time Magazine: Living With Roommates Is Sorely Underrated https://time.com/7016352/group-living-essay/
2024	NY Post: Animals become less social as they age — just like people https://nypost.com/2024/11/01/science/animals-become-less-social-as-they-age-like-people-scientists/
2024	The Hindu: Grave new world: humans are killing the elders species need to survive https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/grave-new-world-humans-are-killing-the-elders-species-need-to-survive/article69042051.ece#
2024	The Guardian: Animals become less sociable as they age in similar way to humans. https://www.theguardian.com/science/2024/oct/29/animals-become-less-sociable-as-they-age-in-similar-way-to-humans-research-shows
2024	Growing old with 'Prides': Male and female lions socialize differently throughout their lives www.ox.ac.uk/news/2024-08-08-growing-old-prides-male-and-female-lions-socialize-differently-throughout-their
2024	Smithsonian Magazine: How Do Animals Change Their Social Habits as They Age? www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-do-animals-change-their-social-habits-as-they-age-180984723/
2023	Popularity isn't easy: the influence of social connections on learning https://www.biology.ox.ac.uk/article/popularity-isnt-easy-the-influence-of-social-connections-on-learning
2023	Spotify – OxPods Interview – Social Networks & The Spread of Behaviour https://open.spotify.com/episode/58Oa7NNJybKlAGztWP3GT2
2022	Earth.com – Red Deer Become Less Social With Age https://www.earth.com/news/red-deer-become-less-sociable-with-age/
2022	Nature – Behind the Paper - Cruise ships Contact networks for COVID-19 transmission https://healthcommunity.nature.com/posts/sailing-the-high-cs-cruise-ships-contact-networks-for-covid-19-transmission?channel_id=behind-the-paper
2022	Nature World News - Societal Extinction: Experts Revealed How Species Can Actually Go Extinct Twice. https://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/49460/20220217/study-reveals-the-effects-of-societal-extinction.htm
2021	Science Magazine - Mom's powerful friends keep high-ranking hyenas on top. https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/07/mom-s-powerful-friends-keep-high-ranking-hyenas-top

2020	Springer Nature – "The Source: Research in the time of a pandemic; Josh Firth Interview" https://www.springernature.com/gp/researchers/the-source/blog/blogposts-communicating-research/research-in-the-time-of-a-pandemic--how-a-2018-bbc-documentary/18067816
2020	Oxford News "BBC Contagion experiment offers insights into Covid-19 control" http://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2020-05-26-bbc-contagion-experiment-offers-insights-covid-19-control
2019	Phys.org "Social influencers: What can we learn from animals?" https://phys.org/news/2019-12-social-animals.html
2019	Cosmos Magazine "Socialites are not the primary behavioural influencers" https://cosmosmagazine.com/society/socialites-not-the-primary-behavioural-influencers
2018	Audubon Magazine "The Surprising Connection Between Birds, Facebook, and Other Social Networks" https://www.audubon.org/magazine/winter-2018/
2018	Nature Asia "Personality is key for love birds" http://www.natureasia.com/en/research/highlight/12713/
2018	Technology.org: "Personality shapes pair bonding in a wild bird social system" https://www.technology.org/2018/10/02/bold-male-birds-fall-faster-and-harder-for-their-partners/
2018	Nature Podcast (Interview) 'Bird Personalities' https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-06935-8
2018	New York Times: Wired to Be Besties – Vol. April 17, 2018, pD1, NY Times.
2017	National Geographic (Italy): "The Resilience of Great Tits" - nationalgeographic.it/natura/animali/
2017	Science Daily: "Good grief! Losing a friend brings wild birds closer together" - https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/05/170517101214.htm
2016	Scientific American: "The Great Tit chooses love over food" – Vol. 314, Issue 2, p13
2016	BBC Wildlife Magazine: "In the field: Food or love" – Vol. 34, Issue 2, p18.
2015	Science: "Birds would rather go hungry than leave their mate behind" - news.sciencemag.org/plants-animals/2015/11/birds-would-rather-go-hungry-leave-their-mate-behind
2015	The Conversation: "Meet the wild animals who put their partners first"- www.theconversation.com/meet-the-wild-animals-who-put-their-partners-first-just-dont-call-it-love-50618
2015	The Times: "Birds are prepared to go hungry for love" – Page 3, 13/11/15. www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/science/article4613001.ece
2015	Radio Interviews: BBC Radio Oxford (12/11/15), BBC Radio Scotland (13/11/15)
2015	Radio Coverage: Radio 4 (13/11/15)
2015	Audubon: "Feathered Friends for Life - or Not" - www.audubon.org/news/feathered-friends-life-or-not
2014	Radio Interview: BBC Radio Oxford (17/12/2014)
2013	BBC 1 Countryfile Interview "Tweet Networking" - www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03kkc73

Professional and Other Activities

Feb–Apr 2026	BBSRC Pioneer Awards Pre-Panel Primary Reviewer
Feb–Apr 2026	ASAB Grant Panel – Primary Reviewer
Oct–Dec 2025	NERC Grant Panel Member – Panel 3
Sep 2023–Present	Fellow Mentor - BBSRC Pool of Mentors
Feb 2023–Aug 2024	Editor (Guest) - Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B Ageing & Sociality - Special Issue
Jan 2022–2023	Consulting Editor – Animal Behaviour
Apr 2021	ILSI Annual Symposium Member
Jan 2021–2022	MOCIA Consortium Member

Oct 2020–Feb 2021	Editor (Guest) - eLife Journal - Ecology
Jul 2020–Apr 2022	Lead PI/Organiser: Royal Society Hooke Scientific Meeting (London, UK)
Apr 2020–2022	Member: Rapid Assistance in Modelling the Pandemic (Royal Society, UK)
May 2020–2022	Member: SPI-M Scientific Pandemic Influenza Group on Modelling (Department of Health and Social Care, UK Government)
Apr–Jul 2020	Lead Organiser: Oxford Behaviour & Ecology Seminar Series
Jun 2019	Lead Organiser: OXBER Conservation Behaviour Meeting (Berlin)
Jun 2019	Project Leader: Modelling Collective Behaviour Workshop (Brooklyn, NYC)
2018–2020	Editor at Avian Biology Research
2017–2021	Governing Body Member (Merton College)
2015–Present	Guest writer for online resources and blogs including The Conversation, Nature 'Behind the Paper' Blog, Academic Life Histories
2015–Present	Reviewed grants and awards totalling >10 million
2013–Present	Reviewed >100 manuscripts for top journals including Nature and Science
2012–Present	Outreach activities: Primary School Ornithology Lessons, A Level Bird ringing demonstrations, Hill End Centre Nature Activities
2017	Interviewing undergraduates for Biological Sciences, University of Oxford
2013	UK Bird Ringing C Permit with Mist Net Endorsement
2012	Home Office Animal Welfare Personal Licence (Modules 1–4)
2011	BTO Breeding Bird Volunteer Surveyor

Society Memberships (active & past): British Ecological Society (BES), British Ornithologists' Union, International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI), Athens Institute (ATINER), Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour, International Society for Behavioural Ecology, British Trust for Ornithology, International Society for Conservation Biology, Conservation Culturomics Working Group, European Cooperation in Science and Technology (e-COST expert), Evolution, American Society of Naturalists, Comparative Cognition Society

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