

Institute: Institute of Environmental Sciences

Topic: Human – wildlife conflicts in urban areas

Name of supervisor: dr hab. Izabela Wierzbowska
i.wierzbowska@uj.edu.pl

Background Information:

As urbanisation and habitat destruction increase, numerous animal species struggle for survival, while others thrive. In our (Basak et al. 2020) recent research we found that roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), and stone marten (*Martes foina*) are the most common urban species in Krakow city. Yet, often they are involved in conflict situations. The proposed research would be an extension of the study with a special focus on studying animal activity in urban gradient.

The main question to be addressed in the project:

We will analyse the impact of environmental factors which might affect wild animals activity and their presence in urban areas as well evaluate the characteristics of human-wildlife conflicts with a special focus on animal-vehicle collisions

Information on the methods/description of work:

Cooperation will be established with the urban wildlife stakeholders in Polish cities to evaluate a survey on a national scale to obtain information on conflict situations involving urban wildlife. Camera traps will be set up to identify animals' activity and characteristics of their occurrence.

Additional information:

Knowledge of the functioning of urban ecosystems, experience in field studies of mammals, a fluency in Polish and English.

Place/name of a potential foreign collaborator:

Luís Miguel Rosalino, Faculty of Biology, University in Lisbon

References:

Basak SM, Wierzbowska IA, Gajda A, Czarnoleski M, Lesiak M, Widera E. Human–Wildlife Conflicts in Krakow City, Southern Poland. *Animals*, 10(6), 1014. doi: 10.3390/ani10061014.
Caravaggi A, Burton AC, Clark DA, et al. A review of factors to consider when using camera traps to study animal behavior to inform wildlife ecology and conservation. *Conservation Science and Practice*. 2020; 2:e239. <https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.239>.
Herrera, D., Moore, S., Flockhart, D., McShea, W., & Cove, M. Thinking outside the park: recommendations for camera trapping mammal communities in the urban matrix. *Journal Of Urban Ecology*. 2021. juaa036, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jue/juaa036>.