

THESIS OPPORTUNITY: **SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, INFORMATION USE, AND PERSONALITY  
IN BANK VOLES**



*Bachelor or Masters thesis opportunity*

**BACKGROUND:** Social organisation of species can be strongly influenced by external factors, such as environment, and/or internal factors, including social tolerance. Individual variation in social tolerance (i.e. how interested an individual is in spending time with a conspecific) can influence group size and structure, dispersal, and spatial organisation of populations. Social tolerance may also affect individual interest in, and use of, social information under various conditions. This may be linked to other personality traits, such as boldness or exploration, as part of a individual information gathering strategies. For less socially tolerant species, such as the bank vole (*Myodes glareolus*), understanding individual variation in social tolerance can provide insights into behaviour and subsequent population dynamics across various contexts.

**THE WORK:** Experiments will be conducted in the lab in Potsdam and behaviours recorded using videos and/or direct observation. Timeline is flexible depending on the student and project can be altered to include any further interests of the student.

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