CAPOD Funding Report

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event /Course Title</th>
<th>7th European Federation for Primatology meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date of event</td>
<td>21st-24th August 2017</td>
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1. **Brief description of Event (50-100 words):**

I attended the 7th meeting of the European Federation for Primatology (EFP). This conference was a meeting of all European primatology societies which make up EFP. At this conference I presented a talk on the topic of my Masters dissertation: ‘The Structure and Function of Female Chimpanzee Long Distance Vocalisations’.

2. **What were the benefits of attending and what did you gain from the experience in terms of transferable skills and knowledge.**

Attending this conference gave me the experience of presenting for the first time at a scientific conference. This was a great step for me, as a person who wishes to continue in research. I was presenting among other scientists from all levels in their career, and it proved me that I am capable of doing what they do. Positive feedback from attendees of my talk gave me reassurance and confidence that I am capable of communicating my work to a large (and knowledgeable) audience. I dealt with questions from professionals in the field and was able to discuss my work with them. Previously I only had the opportunity to discuss my research with fellow masters or PhD students, and it was nice to know that the research I had been doing was of interest to other researchers, and to hear the opinions of more experienced academics. Knowing that presenting a talk is not as scary or as difficult as it is made out to be, and am now confident to apply to present at future conferences. I enjoyed engaging in the scientific community in this way and found it a great way to network and start conversation about ones research.

At the conference I interacted with scientists in a way I which I had little chance to before – I learnt about people’s research through attending talks and reading their posters. This let me learn about their research quickly, and I was able to have discussions with the authors about the work they do. I learnt about a diverse array of primatology research which, had I not attended the conference, would take me a much longer to research and read articles on otherwise. It was stimulating to learn about research which is both similar and dissimilar to my own – learning about the breath of topics and different techniques primatologists use.

It was nice to see how peoples’ passions for their research topic can bring together so many people from different places with different backgrounds. Speaking to these people reinforced my desires to continue in research as a career path, but most of all it was encouraging to feel like I was entering into a supportive scientific community.
3. What actions will you be taking as a result of attending or by making new networking contacts.

One talk that I attended of specific interest to me was a plenary talk by Professor Bridget Waller. She spoke about a Facial Action Coding System (FACS) which has been developed to analyse facial expressions of humans and some non-human animals. FACS allows coding of facial movements at the level of individual muscles which makes analysis of facial expressions less subjective. The new research group I am working with had planned to utilise FACS as a tool to aid our research on chimpanzees, macaques and humans. After learning about FACS at this conference, I am keen to train on FACS, and I will take lead on a collaboration with Professor Waller in my new research group - researching the development of smiling in humans, chimpanzees, and macaques.

4. Can you share any additional resources produced in connection with the event (e.g. feedback from participants, training resources, website links, and additional materials).

https://www.alphavisa.com/efp/2017/

5. Tips/experience learned from the event

Researchers are just people, if asked a question after a talk, just act as if they are a person you are familiar with irrespective of their scientific reputation – just because someone has a high-profile name does not mean that you should shy away from engaging in conversations with them. Their feedback can be very useful and it should be taken as a complement that your topic of research can be interesting for people enough for them to want to discuss it with you.

6. Any additional comments or information regarding the event

I really enjoyed hearing about peoples’ diverse research, and seeing how people are interested in primate research form many angles. In addition to presenting my own work, interactions with a diverse set of international researchers made me feel welcomed into a large scientific community.