

Transcript of Episode 13 – Master Thesis #2 of the podcast Wild Research Bites.

Transcribed via Temi and adjusted by Emelie Fredriksson.

Emelie:

Hello, and welcome to wild research bites. This is a podcast brought to you by Swedish university of agricultural science. My name is Emelie Fredriksson and I'm a PhD student at the department of Wildlife, Fish, and Environmental studies. And today we're doing another master thesis interview thingy. So I have two master students with me here. So welcome very much.

Jaime:

Hello!

Emelie:

Maybe we can start with you introducing yourself.

Amber:

Yes. Um, my name is Amber. I am a Belgian student and, um, I came to do the fish and wildlife program at the SLU in Umeå. Yep. And that's it for now?

Emelie:

And then you started your master thesis? Yes. So when did you start?

Amber:

Um, I started looking for a master thesis really from the moment I arrived and, uh, I think very early on, I knew I wanted to work with Göran Spong, um, because I'm very interested in carnivores and genetics and that's exactly what he works on. Um, so we had a discussion and we tried to figure out what would be most suiting. And I was initially very interested in working on Swedish carnivores, but he mentioned that, um, he had now mostly projects going on on African carnivores in Zambia. And he asked if I wanted to take part in that. And I was very enthusiastic about that. So that's how we got together.

Emelie:

Nice. Okay. So you kind of, uh, went looking for your, your thesis subject. Cool. Okay. More, more on that later!

Jaime:

Yeah, so yeah, my name is Jaime. I come from Spain from the Southern part of Spain from the capital of Andalucia. Um, yeah, I came here to, to take my, uh, yeah, my master program here at SLU, same master programme as Amber. And, um, now I am writing my master thesis at the restoration ecology group here at SLU, and I'm having so much fun writing my thesis.

Emelie:

And when did you start?

Jaime:

It's a long story.

Emelie:

It's the same as asking, when are you finishing your PhD?

Jaime:

Um, yeah, I started in July, I would say. Yeah, eh, doing, I think that's completely different that what I'm doing right now. Okay. I started with a massive thesis about, um, uh, well, it's not very rare, but yeah, it's a bit elusive. Uh, long horned beetle, uh, called in Swedish "raggbock". Um, yeah, we were trying to find that beetle here in Västerbotten. We were putting some like, uh, pheromone traps. So I spent yeah, like a month or something like that in the forest, so I would enjoy it, but at the, uh, at the end, uh, it didn't go very well.

Emelie:

Why? Didn't you find any beetles?

Emelie:

It was too elusive.

Jaime:

Yeah. But yeah, it's fine. We, we found another topic and now I'm working with, uh, wild bee communities in Swedish boreal forest. So yeah, it's also very, very interesting.

Emelie:

Mm, no, but those things can happen. I mean, you have a awesome idea for a project or maybe some, some data lying around and you're like, Oh, this would be a great master thesis topic. And then maybe there's nothing there. You don't find the species or whatever, but that's nice that they found something new for you. Cool. Okay. But you're both then, not from Sweden. So why, why did you end up here?

Amber:

It's also kind of a long story, but, um, I was in the end looking for a master program that would give me, um, more knowledge and experience in wildlife management. And it was actually, it's a very unique program. You can't really study it anywhere else in Europe, in English, at least. Um, so that's why I came up here and I was not too unhappy about it being in the North of Sweden. I was very easily convinced.

Emelie:

Nice and well, that's, that's fun that you, you found, found the program anyway. Um, cool. What about you?

Jaime:

Kind of, the same. Yeah. And I was looking for a master's on, yeah. I found that a master programming in Lund. I was really interested in that one, but then something happened and I couldn't go there. So I applied for this one and I'm very happy that I made that decision. Yeah.

Emelie:

Hmm. So what about it? It's nice. Do you think?

Jaime:

Yeah, I think Amber like say it, like, it's very unique and uh, also the, the, the teachers, like the professors, the researchers here, they are like very like open to teach you whatever you want. Um, they're very, very helpful. So I think it's been a good idea to come here to Sweden a bit weird, uh, coming from the, yeah. So I wasn't part of Spain.

Emelie:

I can imagine.

Jaime:

So yeah. Completely different weather, food culture, but so, so good. Yeah.

Emelie:

Have a new favorite new favorite food.

Jaime:

I really like the "fika".

Emelie:

Oh yeah.

New Speaker:

Kanelbullar.

Emelie:

Everybody always likes the "fika" culture. I was very surprised when I started working in this more international type of workplace that this is not common place because I grew up in this "fika" culture and the idea of not having like these common breaks where you drink coffee and talk to each other. Yeah. Because I think it's really good. What about you? What about Northern Sweden? Do you like, and not like,

Amber:

Um, I think what attracted me most is the nature that is so omnipresent and so close and yeah. It just, after a day of working, you just go out and go for a hike. And that's really nice. I mean, I come from a very, um, urbanized area. Belgium is very heavily populated and uh, I mean, there's still a lot of nice nature there too, but it's very different. Yeah. So that's one of the things I like most about this area, this environment.

Emelie:

You don't miss. I mean, now we're in still mid pandemic, so I guess you can't really enjoy what a city would provide any way. But yeah. I mean, a lot of people don't even consider Umeå a city because it's so small.

Jaime:

I didn't know that Umeå existed like before, so

Emelie:

It's like a village, right.

Amber:

A bit maybe. I mean, in Belgium, I live under a cathedral and it's just, yeah. The historic buildings and history is just so close to you, whereas yeah, here you feel a bit more far away from all of that.

Jaime:

That's great too. Yeah. You have Nydala like five minutes walk or something that, yeah. You have a lot of like, uh, nature, very close to you. You can disconnect like so easily here. Um, yeah. I really, really like that point of Umeå.

Emelie:

Yeah. Yeah. I mean, I guess for my, this is the biggest city I've ever lived in so far since I come even further North, but, um, uh, but I agree. It's nice to have like, it's a big enough place, so you can have, you know, stores and stuff like that, and you can order anything online anyway, but, but then you have just like a few kilometers and you're in a nature reserve or something. Yeah. Okay. Um, I wanted to ask you, if you always been interested in like ecology or how you kind of got this interest, because it's always funny, some people from when they are kids they're like yes, nature! And some find it later kind of.

Jaime:

Um, I would say, yeah, my interest in ecology, like yeah. Awake, like he may be in second year of my degree or something like that. Yeah. I was very interested. I mean, I was, yeah. I enjoyed a lot being out in nature, but I was not interested at all in like ecology, like all the interactions, but then yeah, I had a really interesting course. Um, I got the chance to, to, um, be involved like in our department there in university, um, was very, very, it was a very, very nice experience. So since that moment I am very interested, like ecology, like animal planet interactions, like yeah, I am. Yeah. Member of the Andalusian society of entomology. I am very interested in entomology, so yeah. That's why also I came here.

Emelie:

Nice. What about you?

Amber:

I think for, for myself, it was always there. Um, I was this kind of kid who would drag in dead animals and feathers into the house and, uh, my, my mother always stimulated it, but at the same time, she was also telling me, no, Amber, we can't keep this. You have to bring it back outside. No, I mean, yeah. I always really enjoyed being in nature and it started as this naive love for animals and nature and it evolved throughout time into more specific research on, on wildlife. And, um, yeah, I think it's very interesting to

see that evolution of, of uh, of a person really, um, that, yeah, first it was the animals and then I figured out, Oh yeah, I wanted to study biology and then I did study biology and then I was like, Oh, so what am I most interested in now? And then, okay. Yeah, wildlife. Okay. Let's go with that. Then it just, you figure out what you want to do throughout. And that's really nice.

Emelie:

Hmm. I guess it depends on like, in what way you're interested in nature or ecology could be like, like one species group or type of animals that's super interesting and you're super into that. Um, or for me it's more like a general fascination of the complexity and interactions and all of these, like how is this connected to that? And I think it's just, so it doesn't really matter for me if it's beetles or mushrooms or plants or whatever, I just think it's super fascinating and like genetics and evolution and all things. Exactly.

Jaime:

Yeah. Something, at least for me, it's like kind of a problem because yeah. You have to focus like in one thing. So yeah. I, I remember that when I was studying biology. Yeah. My, my father was saying, yeah, but I mean, you, you like everything, you don't like, like just one thing. So you kind of specialize in that thing. And, and I was saying like, no, but yeah, I completely agree with you. Like, like, uh, like the whole nature of what I'm interested in all the, the, the complexity of the interaction. So I really like my, like every I'm really happy that I took that, that decision to study biology.

Emelie:

Yeah. Yeah. It is cool. I kind of felt like, uh, like, um, bad, uh, biologists or like, uh, um, I mean that I wasn't, you know, super amazing at certain species groups and I couldn't say all the Latin names and, and things like that. Like, you know, not like this species nerd kind of biologist, uh, which, I mean, we need a lot of those, but I am not that person. And I kind of starting to like, feel like it is, it is fine to be a more generalist type of biologist if you know what I'm saying, like to see the bigger picture and, and fine if I don't know all the mushroom species or something.

Amber:

Yeah. I'm also, um, what's the word learning how to appreciate, uh, interdisciplinary approaches and working together with people who are from field that you wouldn't initially think of when you're a biologist. I wouldn't have thought of being, working with a programmer or so IT guy, and that's what we end up with like that. And then we do projects together and it makes it so much more valuable.

Emelie:

No I agree. And we also have some people here at the department working, you know, because if you work with like carnivores, for example, you have this very like, social part of it with management and like, what do you say in English like this, uh, interest of the public, I guess, stuff like that. And I mean bees are also...

Jaime:

Yeah, that's true.

Emelie:

...on the, on the news nowadays.

Jaime:

That's very true. Yeah.

Emelie:

Okay. But let's talk about your thesis subjects. So maybe you want to start Amber, like, just like what it is about then I don't know how far you've come with it. So if you want, like some, if you found some results or something, if you could tell us that wouldn't be fun.

Amber:

Yeah. So yeah, we're trying to develop, um, a set of genetic markers that would allow us to, uh, infer relatedness in, um, in my case, hyena populations. And we decided to use SNPs as a genetic marker. SNPs stands for single nucleotide polymorphism, and it's basically an ancestral point mutation a SNP.

Emelie:

Ancestral point mutation? Now you've lost me.

Amber:

A point mutation is a mutation where a single nucleotide is replaced by another one deleted or added. And when they have a deleterious or, um, um, positive impact on, um, the individual, then they are, um, they, they can become fixated in the population. And, um,

Emelie:

So it's like if that gene represents some kind of good, good thing for your fitness or something, then it will like continue.

Amber:

Exactly. And by finding the snips in the genome of, um, multiple individuals in a population or even species, you can figure out, um, where they are from which, um, original population they had, how they migrated may be dispersed. You can figure out so many things, you can make up a pedigree, you can figure out who the parent is from who, uh,

Emelie:

Are these like trees, right? Like, yeah,

Amber:

Exactly. Yeah. So that's what I'm doing. I'm developing that set.

Emelie:

So it's not like it doesn't exist already,

Amber:

Not for hyenas. Mm. Yeah. Um, it does exist for, for a few species and they have developed them here for brown bear for wolverine. Um, but not for hyenas yet. So that's what I'm working on.

Emelie:

Cool. And why? You said some reasons why this could be, could be good to use, but why, why are you planning to use these pedigrees or SNPs?

Amber:

Um, I think in the future, we would use this panel, um, for multiple things. Uh, one of the first things is for example, to get the population estimate, uh, through a pedigree, you can find out the ones you sampled, but you can also find out the ones you didn't sample, but you know, there should be a father there. Oh yeah. But you didn't sample it so you can make some kind of population estimate based on this data.

Emelie:

Cool. Yeah. Very nice. So the aim of your thesis was more to develop these, the set and more of a future researchers to use it for something.

Amber:

Exactly. To apply it. Yeah.

Emelie:

Okay. What has been like the most fun? Have you actually done field work for this?

Amber:

I did do field work and we wanted to figure out how fecal samples would do because, um, before we were generally receiving tissue samples, but for an elusive, well, it's not elusive, but for a carnivore and for many other species, it's kind of good to find non-invasive ways of collecting samples. And we, yeah, we thought that fecal samples would be the best fit for this species. And so I went out in the field and try to figure out a way of collecting them and, um, yeah. Testing if we could get any good DNA from that. Um, so yeah, I did do some field work and it was a lot of fun. Yeah.

Emelie:

Fieldwork, is usually, this double edge sword, I think can be super fun, but it can also be very hard and very tough. So let's, let's come back to it, but maybe you want to explain about the bees.

Jaime:

Yeah. So yeah, with, uh, with my master thesis, um, you're, uh, using eco parks and the reference areas, uh, study areas. So yeah, the eco parks are like multipurpose forests where, uh, where silviculture practices, but also, uh, conservation concerns, uh, concern and restoration. Yeah. Uh, actions are, are going on. Yeah. And the reference areas, they are just productive forest kind of. Um, so we are trying to figure it out if yeah. If there are, uh, some, um, uh, impact, uh, on the diversity patterns of wild bees between these two different regimes. And also if, if there are differences in the species and functional composition of these wild bee communities between these two management regimes and I think it's quite interesting, at least for me,

Emelie:

No, it'd be like a very like, um, hot topic. I mean, the pollinators and then also have a, I mean, I think the eco park concept is very exciting too to study. It's, um, I think this idea of combining like resource extraction and also conservation and see, can we do this? How can we do this? How is the best ways really? I think one way like a future, a future thing. Yeah. Um, because I don't know, we can't really keep on doing what we're doing now, so we have to find some kind of solution and maybe it is hard to motivate only like reserving and not doing resource extraction at all. So yeah. The eco park projects are really, really interesting.

Jaime:

I think so. Yeah. I think so. Um, yeah, like, yeah, it's very interesting to see and to work with these type of things, because you can, uh, figure it out how we impact like, uh, wild bee communities. So, yeah. I'm very interesting this topic right now. Yeah. I also did some field work, eh, well, I did field work, but not about this topic. But yeah, I was, yeah, it was so much fun. Yeah. Even though I was alone in there in the, in the forest, it was incredible. I mean, being alone in the forest, doing your field work is also good. I think because yeah. You can go at your own pace. You don't have to like wait for someone else. Yeah. So it's incredible. I mean, I remember that I, I used to have lunch at a sunny place, close to a river there in K rningberget. Uh, wow. It was incredible. I really enjoyed that. Yeah. But yeah, of course you have also some like very tough or very tough, um, moments. I would say,

Emelie:

What are these looks I'm seeing?

Amber:

I remember when he, he came and told me that all of a sudden he was more aware that there could be bears around

Jaime:

Because I saw like, yeah, bear tracks and also feces. So I was like, maybe, I would really like to see a bear, but not really close.

Emelie:

Yeah. Or from a car or something.

Jaime:

Yeah. But yeah, despite that, yeah, it was, yeah. I really, really enjoyed that, that time. And it gives you also like a lot of experience in the, in the field because you are alone and you have to. Yeah. Okay. Solve all the situations, it was very rewarding. I would say

Emelie:

Did you have any like obstacles you managed to overcome with some, I always have these, I guess I have a lot of them, but these, Oh. I need to get over this little creek or an, I don't know how, I don't want to walk like five kilometers around it or something breaks. And you have to like find some like your shoe string or whatever to fix it. These kinds of improvisations is always, yeah, uh, interesting.

Jaime:

I sometimes like, uh, found some like, uh, closed paths. So I couldn't enter with the car.

Emelie:

Oh yeah. With these like, um, metal bars. Yeah. Blocking it.

Jaime:

But then yeah. I was like, yeah, easy. Yes. You just have to like call the, in this case, Sveaskog, can, yeah. Like a person comes and fix it for you. So it's very, very easy. And also you asked, you said before, I was like, yeah, driving the car through these like dandy paths and I didn't want to break the car. So I was driving very slowly, like, but yeah,

Speaker 4:

You didn't get stuck at least?

Jaime:

No no no.

Emelie:

We had, I was doing field work a few years ago with some students and they weren't going to get the car to the field site. And it was this really, uh, this forest road that turned into like almost a snowmobile track or something. It was not even a forest road anymore, but they decided to drive on it because I, I guess I also didn't tell them to please stop before this. And there was a huge hole in the road. It was, you know, the whole front wheel got stuck in the air. So the car was like on top of the ground. So we, we couldn't get the car out. And, um, uh, you know, the big truck that you can like pull, pull up car. I don't know it's called a bärgare in Swedish. He couldn't get on this road because it was so tiny. So it started raining and it was starting to get dark. And we had to walk for several kilometers. And then the owners of the hostel, we lived on, they drove out into the forest. We survived. But it's not very, I mean, yeah. Getting stuck or hurting yourself, I guess it's the dangerous thing about fieldwork in Sweden, but I mean, wild animals or anything like that, it's not really have to worry about it.

Jaime:

No, exactly. I mean, I was very glad, so I could see like a lot of animals, like most of course, but also like a capercaillie, like black grouse Yeah. It was very, very, very nice. So yeah, I really enjoyed doing my fieldwork and yeah. I will recommend like future students that if they can do some field yeah. They should do it

Emelie:

Because both of you are doing this long master thesis, right. 60 credits because you can do 30 as well. And then maybe it's harder to have time to do field work depending on when you do it and stuff. But I guess it's a bit of a different, dangerous situation if you're out looking for hyena probably.

Amber:

Yeah. Field work in Africa is an adventure on itself. Um, yeah, we had a lot fun, but, yeah, it's these struggles you described their are daily struggles in Africa and they also don't go away. The moment you

go home. I mean, we're sleeping in a tent, but I woke up one morning because ants were biting me all over my body and the, yeah. That kind of things are just that they happen. And I wasn't really, I was never in a situation where I felt dangerous because of the wildlife or so. Um, but yeah, it's more things like this, your car breaks down. I have to replace a tire flat tire, whatever, um, that happens. But I never really felt unsafe because of the animals.

Emelie:

What about the heat? I would think about the heat.

Amber:

The heats was unbearable. I arrived there in the worst part because, um, in October it's just before the rainy season starts and that's the hottest part of the year. Um, it was around 40 degrees Celsius. And at that point, my brain stops thinking really. Um, so yeah, it was quite tough. It was quite tough, but definitely worth it also. Yeah.

Jaime:

I'm used to that temperature.

Emelie:

I rather take minus 20 every day. Yeah. That must be yeah cool experience. Anyway, to see how your body handles it.

Amber:

It was an amazing experience. Yes. All of these things don't weigh up to the, yeah. To the how amazing it actually was to be there in the field. Wake up early in the morning, get into the car and drive out in search of hyenas or lions or there was also, it was also the period of the wildebeest migration. So we just saw so many wildebeest in the plains. It was magnificent. And after the first rains come, you see these lilies coming through the sandy soil. It was really, really beautiful. Sounds awesome.

Emelie:

It sounds like this, like African wildlife dream scenario, without the ants. No, I, I, I, I've only done field work in Sweden. Um, and it is, it can also be amazing. And so you have some days when it's raining and there's bugs everywhere and you know, it's just awful. And then you have you sit there in the sunset and have your like dinner or something. And you're like, this is my job. Or, you know, like the first field job I have after my, uh, I think it was during my master thesis program. It was just like I get paid for this. Yeah. Crazy. Crazy. Okay. So what about, so maybe these are some of the good parts, but do you have any like advice for students who want to do their master thesis? Like what, um, why would you want to do one? Why would you not want to do one?

Jaime:

I mean, I would, I would say that if a student is very interested, interested in like one specific topic, like Amber was he, or she just have to yeah. Send a message to, to the professor or swing by his or her office and talk to, to that professional because yeah, here in Sweden, I think they are all very like open, very flexible. So that's a really good thing. I really like it a lot. Um, so there is not a problem about like sending a message to a professor and yeah, just go for it. I am,

Emelie:

You would recommend it?

Jaime:

I would recommend, I have had so much fun doing my, my, my thesis. Yeah. Doing my field work. I enjoyed it loud, but also like writing, like yeah. Improving my R skills, but yeah, maybe we shouldn't open that box.

Emelie:

Yeah. Yes, yes. Please open the box. Exactly. Cause I'm doing a thesis. Uh, I mean the fieldwork is a very tiny part of it compared to yeah. You have to also handle the data and analyze it and write and stuff. So what about that process?

Jaime:

Yeah. I mean, I think it's very rewarding as well. Like when you, when you see that you are able to do some things that you didn't expect to do. So it's very rewarding to, to see that as well. So yeah, very tough. But,

Amber:

I think the good thing about a master thesis on itself is that it's really good to have all these courses going on and you learn about a lot of different things. And then you're like, okay, now let's bring it all together and try to do this research project from beginning till end. And you have to apply everything you learned before. And I think that's, you learn a lot from that. And, um, you encounter things you saw in the course and you encounter things that were not covered at all in the course, and they can't possibly cover everything. Um, but yeah, I think that, um, yeah, you gain a lot of experience from that and, and you, what's the word

Emelie:

Because it is a big project to do by yourself, especially a 60 credit. Some people go to publish these, like, yeah. So it, it is like sometimes I don't want to stay miniature to make it. I don't mean it. Like, it's not as good as the other research projects we do or something, but it's, it's usually at smaller scale, but it is like, you can sometimes publish them if it's a good enough data and if the students, or the student wants to. So it is like a, a real research project and the report that you're writing that could be published research. So, so it's, it's very exciting in that way to see if you like it or not.

Amber:

It is exciting. It's also a lot of stress. Like, am I, am I doing a good enough job? Am I like doing this well, am I making mistakes? I don't want to make mistakes, but yeah, in the end you're just learning so much and you can always, um, talk to your supervisors. They can guide you. And yeah, I think in the end, it's, it's a really good opportunity.

Jaime:

I think so. Yeah. And you have made a good point. Yeah. I would feel like, yeah, I shouldn't ask these because maybe I should like know that, but it's pointless to be stuck doing your thesis because you have like your supervisor, like in some situations you have two, um, supervisors. There are a lot of researchers

here at SLU and PhDs. Like you, like, you can ask for help. So I think I have learned that here, like, please like stop being stuck in just one simple thing and ask for help.

Emelie:

Hmm. Because even though it's your own project or, or, or paper, it's still, it's still like a collaboration with your supervisors and you're not supposed to hand in like a finished report. You're you, you, I mean, the beginning drafts are supposed to look like a mess because there are drafts and then you like get feedback. And so it's, um, it's this like kneading the dough kind of progress thingy, but it is of course scary to send something that you know is not perfect. Uh, I mean, I thought it was super intimidating because when in like beginning of university studies, you usually like make this lab report and then it's done when you send it in and not this, like, and you get some comments maybe, but you never maybe do something with them. But, but yeah, here it's like, yeah, send this point list of stuff you want in the introduction. It's like, so far away from finished. Have you had this like wall of red marked document coming your way and you feel panic?

Jaime:

Yeah. I feel a bit the first time I, I receive like some comes from my supervisor, I was like, oh, I'm not going to finish this master's thesis. Yeah. But then it's yeah. Yeah. They're just like helping you and, and, um, I really appreciate when they, they like comment a lot because that point I am learning a lot too. So yeah. I really enjoy like receiving feedback from my supervisors.

Emelie:

I mean, the point is to, to make it better together kind of, and not say he did this wrong, but it's just like, Oh, I didn't really understand this sentence. We could phrase it like this maybe or something.

Amber:

Yeah. I'd also rather receive a document full of comments then just like, yeah, it's fine but the, like, yeah. This kind of general comment, uh, where you're like, Oh, I don't know what to do with this. So then a I would rather receive a document full of red marking.

Emelie:

I agree then, you know, that it has been some thought in it to what's what's next then. So now you're here in Sweden, you're doing your master thesis. This is also like the question you shouldn't ask, especially the PhD students. But do you have a plan after, after this? It there some jobs you would like, or do you want to continue researching or

Jaime:

Yeah, I mean, would really like to dive into the research more, but I'm not sure. So I kind of, right now I am applying what I have already applied for some summer jobs. Um, I would really like to, to continue here in Sweden to continue my career here, because I would dare to say that here there are a lot of opportunities, so I will give it a try. Um, yeah. So that's my little future right now. Like yeah. Applying for some time of jobs. Um, also if I can publish my thesis, it could be, it could be incredible. So let's see.

Emelie:

Yeah. Fun. Sounds fun. Super nice.

Amber:

Yeah. I think we have very similar plans. Um, I would also be very interested in continuing in, in academics, but yeah, for now I feel like I just have to focus on my thesis, get that done, and then we'll figure out the next step. Just like, just like we did before. Okay. I did biology. Okay. Now I want to do wildlife management. Good. And then it just goes and steps. And I, and I try also not to feel distressed about not knowing exactly what I want to do yet, because I feel like I'll figure it out once I'm finished with this stuff. I'll, I'll figure out the next one. Yeah.

Emelie:

I think that the more you just like relax into not knowing, I think it's better because I don't think I've ever gotten any jobs that I like super planned for in the beginning. It's just like opportunities arise. And you're like, ooh, this sounds interesting. And maybe this fits right now with yeah. Maybe your interests, but also like your outside of work life, like where you want to live or where your partner lives or, you know, who knows? So yeah. I mean, it's completely fine saying I have no idea what to do after this. And also academia is always still there. I mean, I took, there was two years between my master when I finished it and my PhD. So it was super nice to try some other kinds of jobs and see if I would do like that. And what I realized I liked the university and I had, I had to check on the other side, if the grass was greener, I did not think it was. And now I feel the same way. It's like, do I want to continue? I don't know. Maybe so. We'll see what happens. I also don't know what I will do after this.

Jaime:

Oh yeah. Yeah.

Emelie:

Cool. I have no more questions. Is there anything more you would like to add or comment?

Amber:

Yeah, I think, um, for the students who are listening to this podcast, think if you're thinking about studying at, uh, SLU, um, in the wildlife program, um, there is, uh, some social media to follow that they could recommend. Yeah, because we are sharing a lot of stories on there from different students. Uh, the research that we conduct at a department and also how it is to live and study in Umeå and it's called masters of nature. So you can find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Emelie:

It's a very, very nice Instagram, I must say.

Amber:

Yeah, we're trying our best to make it look nice. And, um, and informative obviously. Yeah. So, no, I could definitely recommend if you're considering to come and study here and then you can know all about it.

Emelie:

Yeah. Or if you just want fun facts of animals and yeah. Cool research stuff.

New Speaker:

Exactly.

Emelie:

Yeah. Very, very good. I almost forgot that we had to mention that. Of course, then I'm very happy to have both of you here. Um, I really enjoyed these, um, master student interviews. It's always, always fun to hear about your thesis topics. Uh, you can also reach us on our podcast email, which I think I forgot the name of now. I'll put it in the description if you want to contact me. Um, otherwise yeah. Thanks for joining and good luck with everything. Thanks.

Jaime:

Thank you.

Amber:

Thanks!