

CV

Göran Fredrik Liljeholm Spong

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ORCID

Current appointments

- Senior lecturer and responsible for the competence area Molecular Ecology
- Leader of the Molecular Ecology Group (roughly 10 members)
- Third consecutive term as elected member of SLU's board (3-year terms)

Research Statement

My research uses genetic methods to quantify processes in wild vertebrates. We build and maintain large genetic baseline databases and species-specific genetic resources optimized for non-invasive genotyping. Whole genome data inform population histories, genomic erosion and the effects of fragmentation and small population size. Most of the model systems used are of economic or conservation concern, so we develop methods and statistics to allow reliable quantification of contemporary processes at the population and individual level to better understand consequences of ecological change. Most projects are international and liaise with stakeholders, governments, and research groups on vertebrate model systems in Europe and beyond.

Professional development

- 2025 Research Professor LUKE, Helsinki, Finland
- 2011- Senior lecturer, Swedish Agricultural University
- 2007-2010 Assistant professor, Swedish Agricultural University
- 2004-2006 Research fellow (Marie Curie postdoc), Cambridge University, UK
- 2002-2004 Postdoc (STINT postdoc), University of Pretoria, Republic of South Africa
- 2001 Postdoc, University of Montana, USA

Supervision

Current

PhD student Faruk Mamugy (main)
PhD student Julia Jansson (main)
PhD student Charlotte Enkvist (co)
PhD student Benjamin Lindberg (co)
MSc Aidan Löwinger (main)
MSc Noah Olsen Lesch (co)

Completed

Phd Ingela Jansson
PhD Anita Norman
PhD Ellinor Sahlén
PhD Ida-Maria Blåhed
PhD Ruth Nichols
PhD Heather Hemmingmoore
PhD Henrik Thurfjell (co-supervised)
PhD Zea Walton (co-supervised)
>10 MSc students

Bibliometrics (Google scholar)

- Total citations 4132
- h-index 29
- i10-index 51

Qualifications

- 2010 Docent in Molecular Ecology at SLU.
- 2002 PhD in Evolutionary Biology at Uppsala University (supervised by Professor Mats Björklund and Professor Scott Creel at Montana State University).
- 1995 MSc in Biology at Uppsala University (including 2 years at Umeå University and 1 year at University of Minnesota). Master project on short-grass plain hyena demography (supervised by Heribert Hofer at Max Planck Institute, Seewiesen).

Major funding

The yearly research cost turnaround in molecular Ecology exceeds 500,000 € (excluding facility and salary costs). In 2022 we reached >800,000 €, partly due to a large equipment grant. PhD students and postdocs are always funded by external grants. The laboratory holds all the associated equipment items needed for a fully self-sufficient laboratory (all funded by external grants).

- Kempe stiftelsen, Formas, USFWS, Vt, NSF, SEPA, and a range of international conservation NGOs (e.g. Panthera, WWF, National Geographic).

Last commissioned work

- 2024- Wolverine monitoring Sweden (ongoing, about 400,000/year)
- 2022 Brown bear recount census (150,000€)
- 2022- Tracking illegal trade of large cats in Africa (ongoing, about 25,000€/year)

Reviewing

- Opponent or external reviewer of 8 PhD and licentiate theses and on the evaluation committee for more. The last one at Stockholm University 15 December 2023 (Julie Bommerlund, arctic fox ecology). I have evaluated PhD theses from USA, Switzerland, South Africa, Norway, and Sweden.
- Grant and manuscript reviews accepted are around 15 per year.
- External evaluator of the PhD educations at Umeå University in 2022 and for Lund University 2024.

Teaching

I have taught the PhD course *Scientific Writing* (7.5 ECTS) for 8 years.

I also teach under- and graduate students, e.g.:

- Ecology C- a module on kin selection
- Fish and wildlife management- the application of genetic data to infer population metrics
- Applied population biology- lectures and computer task on forensic assignment
- Census techniques- lectures and computer task on CMR using genetic data

Previous appointments

- Vice dean of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Forest Sciences, 2021-2025
- Director of Graduate studies, Faculty of Forest Sciences, 2011-2020