

Ravindra Palavalli-Nettimi, PhD

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Professional Summary

- Accomplished neuro-ethologist with 7+ years of experience in conducting field and lab-based research, quantitative analyses, teaching and supervising students, and communicating science.
- Excellent project manager who facilitated the completion of 6 projects resulting in over 10 peer-reviewed scientific publications and won over \$164k worth of grants/fellowships.
- Self-motivated individual with experience communicating complex science topics to diverse audiences, as evidenced by 13 conference/seminar presentations, 2 best presentation awards, 1 outstanding outreach award, 3 podcasts series production, 1 science policy op-ed, and publication of over 7 media articles and popular blog posts.

Positions held

- Post-doctoral research associate, Florida International University, Mar 2019-present.
--Conduct research on fruit fly vision, guest lecture in 3 courses, and supervise students.
- *Outside JEB* contributor. *Journal of Experimental Biology*. Jan 2021-present
--Write popular science articles for the journal and work under strict deadlines.
- Research assistant, Macquarie University, Nov 2018-Jan 2019.
--Liaised with the Australian museum staff for identifying and depositing spider samples. Helped digitize and quantify ant brain scans.
- Multimedia editor, *Journal of Animal Ecology*. 2017-2019.
--Hosted and produced podcasts and reached a range of global audiences.
- Web editor, Australian Science Communicators website. 2017-2018.
--Maintained the website with graphics and managed their LinkedIn account.
- Teaching assistant, Macquarie University, 2016-2017.
--Taught a lab course using innovative real-time online feedback tools, and created 4 lesson plans.

Policy experience

- Toward a sustainable model of scientific publishing. **Op-Ed. *Journal of Science Policy and Governance***. (in press; 2021).
- National Science Policy Network member (Jan 2021-present).
- Science policy and advocacy for STEM scientists certificate [course](#) from UC-Irvine, USA (2020).

Science Communication and outreach

- Synthetic sunflower scent trains bees for better pollination. *Outside JEB. Journal of Experimental Biology*. (2021)
- Organized and led an outreach exhibit on Insect vision and brain at the Brain Fair, Miami Dade STEAM expo, Miami. (2020)

- [Featured](#) in **PBS Nova**. World's fastest-running ant scuttles over scalding Saharan sands at super speeds. (2019)
- Taught undergrads at FIU to script podcasts based on research papers, edited and published in the British Ecological Society Soundcloud [account](#). (2019)
- [Featured](#) in **Sydney Morning Herald**. Wiping out ants on the kitchen bench? This is what you interrupted. (2018)
- In an ant's world, the smaller you are the harder it is to see obstacles. [The Conversation](#). (2018). Re-published in [Australianscience.com](#), [Phys.org](#), and [Australian Geographic](#).
- What can we learn from insects on a treadmill with virtual reality. [Robohub.org](#). (2017)
- [Insect inquiry](#): School outreach on making kids ask questions. Canberra, Australia. **Scientists in School program. CSIRO**. (2017)
- [Field Reports](#) podcast produced for **Journal of Animal Ecology** (2017-2019)
- Ant behaviour exhibit at the Australian Museum Expo. Sydney Science Festival. (2017)
- Ant walk. An outreach program for natural history enthusiasts. Organized by Friends of Mt. Majura and Black Mountain, Canberra, Australia. (2017)
- Can ants get your pizza delivered faster? [Insectes Sociaux](#) blog. (2016)
- How ants walk backward carrying a heavy load and still find home. [The conversation](#). Re-published in [Australian Geographic](#), [Phys.org](#), and [Videnskab.dk](#) (in Danish). (2016)
- [Just questions](#): a podcast about how scientists ask questions. (2016)
- [Interviewed](#) for **ABC Radio National** (Australia). Jack Jumper ants navigate for driverless cars. (2016)
- [Interviewed](#) for *In Situ* Science podcast (episode 12). 'Ants, Ants and more ants with Ravindra Palavalli-Nettimi'. (2016)
- [Featured](#) in 'Lab reports' series produced by the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research and Vigyan Prasar, India. (2015)
- Guest editorial. Ravindra. P. Nettimi, Madhur Mangalam, Mewa Singh. Why not be an early-bird researcher? *Current Science*. 108(6), 1027-1028. This article was also covered by Indian media: *Indian Express* (6 April 2015)

Relevant awards

- Australian Science Communicators grant. A\$400. (2017)
- New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage, and the Ecological Society of Australia award for outstanding outreach. A\$ 400 + an opportunity to work on a project with primary school students. (2016-2017)
- Best student talk at the Australasian Society for the Study of Animal Behaviour conference. (2016)
- Barbara Rice award for the best field-based presentation, Macquarie University. A\$500. (2016)

Education

- PhD (Biology). Oct. 2015-Oct 2018. Awarded in Feb 2019. Department of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.
- Integrated BS-MS. Biology major. Grade: very good, GPA: 8.6. 2010-2015. Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, India.