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EDUCATION

2005	Ph.D. Biology, Duke University, Durham, NC
1999	M.S. Ecology and Evolution, Université de Montpellier II, France
1998	B.A. Biology / French, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

WRITING AND EDITING EXPERIENCE

2009-Present — Communications Manager, National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent)
- •Staff writer for a nonprofit biology research center

2010-Present — Freelance science writer, *The Charlotte Observer*

2010-Present — Freelance science writer, *Raleigh News and Observer*

2008-Present — Freelance science writer, *Scitable*, Nature Publishing Group
- •Research and write genetics articles for an online learning initiative from the publishers of *Nature*

2008-Present — Freelance science writer, *GenomeLIFE Magazine*, Duke University
- •Research and write freelance articles for an online research magazine

2008-Present — Freelance science writer, *Duke Research Magazine*, Duke University
- •Pitch, research, and write articles for an online research magazine

2007-2008 — Editor, *Deliberations*, Thompson Writing Program, Duke University
- •Served on the editorial board of a yearly journal of undergraduate writing

2003 — Writer/Editor, *Biology Graduate Student Handbook*, Duke University
- •Co-wrote & edited a popular handbook for surviving and making sense of graduate school

2001-2008 — Academic Writer/Reviewer, Biology Department, Duke University
- •Published academic articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals including *American Journal of Botany*, *American Naturalist*, *Evolution* and *New Phytologist*
- •Wrote several successful grant proposals to fund dissertation research
- •Reviewer for the academic journal *Evolutionary Ecology*

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Smith, R. A. and M. D. Rausher (2008). "Selection for character displacement is constrained by the genetic architecture of floral traits in the ivyleaf morning glory." Evolution 62(11): 2829-2841.

Smith, R. A. and M. D. Rausher (2008). "Experimental evidence that selection favors character displacement in the ivyleaf morning glory." American Naturalist 171(1): 1-9.

The above article was also highlighted in the 17 January 2008 issue of *Nature*:
(2008). "Research highlight: Flower power." Nature 451(7176): 226

Smith, R. A. and M. D. Rausher (2007). "Close clustering of anthers and stigma in *Ipomoea hederacea* enhances prezygotic isolation from *Ipomoea purpurea*." New Phytologist 173(3): 641-647.

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

McCormick, M. K., K. L. Gross and **R. A. Smith** (2001). "*Danthonia spicata* (Poaceae) and *Atkinsonella hypoxylon* (Balansiae): Environmental dependence of a symbiosis." American Journal of Botany **88**(5): 903-909.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

1999-2005	Doctoral Research, Duke University, Department of Biology Advisor: Mark Rausher, Ph.D. Thesis: *Ecological genetics of prezygotic isolating traits in the ivyleaf morning glory*
1998-1999	Master's Research, Université de Montpellier II, Program in Ecology and Evolution Advisor: Sandra Lavorel, Ph.D. Thesis: *Ecological diversity and resilience of Mediterranean vegetation to disturbance*
1996-1998	Undergraduate Research, Vanderbilt University, Department of Biology Advisor: David McCauley, Ph.D.

TEACHING AND OUTREACH

2005-2009 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Thompson Writing Program, Duke University
- •Designed and taught a variety of science-themed undergraduate writing courses
- •Developed syllabi, writing assignments and lesson plans
- •Provided regular feedback and comments on student drafts
- •Conducted weekly writing workshops

2001-2008 Instructor, Howard Hughes Pre-college Program, Duke University
- •Co-taught and coordinated a summer research training program for gifted women and minority high school students in the biological sciences

2006-2007 Instructor, FEMMES (Females Excelling More in Math, Engineering and Science), Duke
- •Facilitated hands-on workshops as part of an annual science & math outreach conference for middle school girls from area schools

2000-2004 Research Mentor, Duke University
- •Designed and supervised a series of summer research projects for undergraduate and high school researchers (T. Crowgey, K. Ford, P. Holland and J. Powell)

2004-2005 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Organismal Evolution, Duke University

2000-2001 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Microbiology, Duke University

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2003	National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant
2003	Franks Gender and Science Research Award, Duke University Women's Center
2003	Department of Biology Grant-in-Aid of Research, Duke University
1999-2003	James B. Duke Fellowship, Duke University
1998-99, 2001-03	National Science Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellowship
2002	Giles-Keever Award, Duke University
1999-2000	Ray J. Tysor Graduate Fellowship, Duke University
1998	HHMI Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Vanderbilt University
1996	National Science Foundation Undergraduate Research Award, Michigan State Univ.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Association of Science Writers • Science Communicators of North Carolina