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Science Writing and Communications
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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

2014-Present Science writer, Duke Office of News and Communications
2013-2014 Science writer, Duke Lemur Center
2009-2014 Communications Manager, National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent)
2010-2014 Correspondent, SciTech page of The News & Observer/The Charlotte Observer
2008-2009 Freelance writer, Scitable, Nature Publishing Group
•Researched and wrote genetics articles for an online learning initiative from the publishers of *Nature*
2008-2009 Freelance writer, *GenomeLIFE Magazine*, Duke University
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.
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

- 2005-2009 Teaching Fellow, Thompson Writing Program, Duke University
•Designed and taught a variety of 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 program for gifted women and minority high school students
- 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
- 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