



» *EvoPAD provides the perfect environment for PhD students wishing to conduct highly interdisciplinary research in the field of evolution, covering topics that range from biological to philosophical problems.*«

Verónica Andrea Ferrando,  
PhD student

## > Principal Investigators

- > **Prof. Dr. Joachim Kurtz (Speaker)**  
Animal Evolutionary Ecology
- > **Prof. Dr. Erich Bornberg-Bauer**  
Molecular Evolution and Bioinformatics
- > **Dr. Francesco Catania**  
Evolutionary Cell Biology
- > **Prof. Dr. Ulrich Dobrindt**  
Microbial Genome Plasticity
- > **Prof. Dr. Ulrich Krohs**  
Philosophy of Science and Nature
- > **Prof. Dr. Stephan Ludwig**  
Molecular Virology
- > **Prof. Dr. Alexander Mellmann**  
Hospital and Environmental Hygiene
- > **Prof. Dr. h.c. Michael Quante**  
Practical Philosophy
- > **Prof. Dr. Helene Richter**  
Behavioural Biology and Animal Welfare
- > **Prof. Dr. Norbert Sachser**  
Behavioural Biology and Zoology
- > **PD Dr. Jürgen Schmitz**  
Experimental Pathology
- > **Prof. Dr. Monika Stoll**  
Genetic Epidemiology



## > Contact

- > **Speaker**  
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- > **Applications**  
For open positions and additional information please refer to [www.uni-muenster.de/EvoPAD](http://www.uni-muenster.de/EvoPAD)

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## > EvoPAD – Evolutionary Processes

in Adaptation and Disease

DFG Research Training Group 2220



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### > About EvoPAD

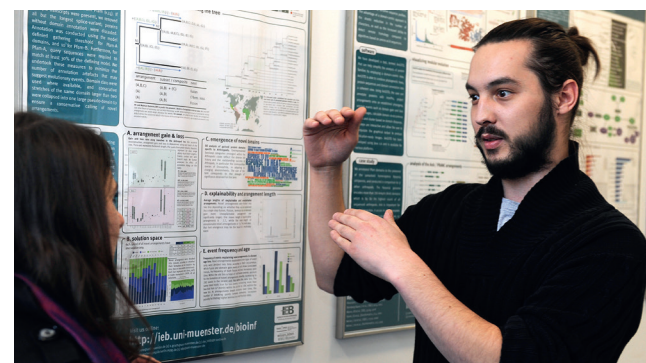
The rapid evolution of pathogens and the rising rates of cardiovascular diseases and psychiatric disorders, pose major challenges to human health. Moreover, the distinction between health and disease may depend on individual life history and its interaction with the environment.

**The Research Training Group EvoPAD is an interdisciplinary PhD programme which integrates biological, medical, and philosophical research at the University of Münster with the core idea to use the theory of evolution to understand processes leading to adaptation and disease. It is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and started in April 2017.**

#### > EvoPAD focusses on three core research areas:

- A. Evolutionary processes in infectious diseases
- B. Plasticity of genomes and phenotypes and its relevance for health and disease
- C. Philosophy of evolution and disease

A particular strength of EvoPAD is its foundation in the philosophy of science. PhD students in Philosophy benefit from first-hand access to modern biological and medical research. In turn, PhD students in Biology gain from a refined awareness of conceptual consequences of a chosen theory.



### > Qualification & Supervision

EvoPAD offers a multidisciplinary qualification programme tightly linked to the research questions and tailored to individual career tracks. EvoPAD PhD students are anchored within their respective own disciplines, while interdisciplinarity is achieved through a modern mentoring system and joint research.

Training offered by EvoPAD consists of regular meetings, annual summer schools and specific courses in subjects that require high-level and in-depth training specific to EvoPAD, such as evolutionary genetics and genomics, population genetics, biostatistics, bioinformatics, and experimental design.

International exchange is fostered through research stays of the EvoPAD PhD students with partner institutions and labs abroad, and intensive interactions with international visiting scientists.



*»Many cities have a university,  
few universities have a city,  
Münster is one of the few.«*

*Ozan Altan Altinok,  
PhD student*

#### > General Structure of the Training Programme

Year I	Year II	Year III
(A) Three-phase education programme		
Cross-disciplinary training	Science-skills training	Academia track
		Industry track
		Society track
(B) EvoPAD Colloquium & Student Meetings		
(C) Studium Integrale (optional)		
(D) Project-oriented training		

### > Living and Studying in Münster

With a total of 44,000 students, the University of Münster is one of the largest universities in Germany with a rich and time-honoured tradition. It promotes internationally renowned cutting-edge research in numerous scientific and academic fields including evolutionary science. The University of Münster is committed to offering excellent research opportunities, high-quality teaching, and strong support to its junior researchers.

The city of Münster has around 300,000 inhabitants and is a bustling academic and cultural city. A historic city centre, modern urban city quarters, a lively cultural scene, a wealth of sport and recreational opportunities, and lots of green space in the city are appreciated by residents and students alike.