


# Lucie THEL

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

19<sup>th</sup> August 1995 (30 years old)

1A Notsung Avenue, Heather Park, George – 6529, Western Cape, South Africa

 +33 6 34 95 57 26

@ [lucie.mc.thel@gmail.com](mailto:lucie.mc.thel@gmail.com)

Personal website: <https://luciemcthel.wixsite.com/lucie-thel-research>

## EDUCATION

**10/2018 - 09/2021**

Ph.D. in Ecology (defense: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021), [Claude Bernard University](#) (France)

**09/2017 - 07/2018**

M.Sc. in Ecology, [Paul Sabatier University](#) (France)

**09/2015 - 07/2018**

Engineering degree in Environment Management, French Grande Ecole: [Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Toulouse](#) (graduate engineering school in agricultural science) (France)

**09/2013 - 06/2015**

Prep School for the competitive exam to French Grandes Ecoles in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth Sciences, [Lycée Général et Technologique Agricole des Sciences Vertes](#) (France)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

**01/2025 - present**

Post-doctoral Researcher, [Department of Conservation Management - Nelson Mandela University](#), George (South Africa). Host: Jan Venter (NMU George)

**01/2023 - 12/2024**

Post-doctoral Researcher, [Department of Conservation Management - Nelson Mandela University](#), George (South Africa). Host: Jan Venter (NMU George)

**10/2021 - 11/2022**

Temporary Teaching and Research Assistant, [Paul Sabatier University](#) and [Evolution et Diversité Biologique Lab](#) (France). Host: Sarah Leclaire (EDB Toulouse)

**10/2018 - 09/2021**

Ph.D. candidate, [Claude Bernard University](#) and [Biométrie et Biologie Evolutive Lab](#) (France). Supervisors: Christophe Bonenfant (LBBE Lyon) and Simon Chamaillé-Jammes (CEFE Montpellier)

**02/2018 - 07/2018**

**M.Sc. research internship - 2<sup>nd</sup> year**, [Savoie Mont Blanc University](#) and [Ecologie Alpine Lab](#) (France). Supervisors: Anne Loison (LECA Le Bourget du Lac), Mathieu Garel (OFB Grenoble) and Pascal Marchand (OFB Montpellier)

**06/2017 - 08/2017**

**M.Sc. research internship - 1<sup>st</sup> year**, [Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Toulouse](#) and [Lajuma Research Centre](#) (South Africa). Supervisors: Birthe Linden (LRC Louis Trichardt) and Annie Ouin (ENSAT Toulouse)

## **TEACHING**

**02/2025**

**Introduction to R and RStudio**, [Nelson Mandela University](#) (South Africa):

- Design of course material and teaching (Honours, 8 hours)

**06/2023**

**African Field Course for Camera Trap Studies**, [Nelson Mandela University](#) (South Africa):

- Design of course material and teaching: Introduction to R (1 day)
- Technical support: during lectures on camera trap analyses and for individual projects (2 weeks)

**10/2021 - 08/2022**

**Temporary Teaching and Research Assistant**, [Paul Sabatier University](#) (France):

- Tutorials and examination in **statistics** (B.Sc. and M.Sc., 54 hours)
- Tutorials and examination in **population dynamics** (B.Sc., 48 hours)
- Tutorials in **general ecology** (B.Sc., 10 hours)
- **Internship referee, report and oral examinations** in various subjects in biology and ecology (M.Sc., 15 hours)

**10/2018 - 09/2021**

**Ph.D. candidate**, [Claude Bernard University](#) (France):

- Tutorials in **biostatistics** and **bioinformatics** (B.Sc., 6 hours)
- Tutorials and examination in **digital culture** (B.Sc., 38 hours)

## **SUPERVISION**

**B.Sc. students:**

- *Analysis of the phenology of births in three species of African ungulates: topi, kongoni and Grant's gazelle* (Maxime Catala, 2019, main supervisor)
- *Quality of image classification by citizen scientists: the example of Snapshot Serengeti Program* (Léa Keurinck, 2019, main supervisor)

**Honours students:**

- *The impact of African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) on the woody vegetation structure and species composition in Madikwe Game Reserve* (Dietre Stols, 2023, co-supervisor)

- *The diet of black backed jackal (Lupulella mesomelas) in Welgevonden Game Reserve* (Rebecca Ryen-Stols, 2023, co-supervisor)
- *Using camera traps to determine chacma baboon (Papio ursinus) responses to predation* (Nicholas van Rooyen, 2023, co-supervisor)

#### Master students:

- *Evaluating the impact of dehorning on the behavioral ecology of the white rhinoceros (Ceratotherium simum)* (Cleo Ferreira, 2023-present, co-supervisor)
- *Giants of the savannah: unravelling the impact of elephant (Loxodonta Africana) on woody vegetation* (Dietre Stols, 2024-present, co-supervisor)
- *Phenotypic variations of chacma baboons (Papio ursinus) in Southern African biomes* (Locadia Dzingwena, 2024, co-supervisor)
- *Reactive temporal response of chacma baboons (Papio ursinus) to predator presence* (Nicholas van Rooyen, 2024, co-supervision)

#### PhD students:

- *Influence of primary production on the phenology of African ungulates across aridity gradients in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Hermanus Swanepoel, 2023-present, co-supervisor)

### GRANTS AND AWARDS

**2025-2026: Vice Chancellor Postdoctoral Fellowship** of Nelson Mandela University (300000ZAR per annum), South Africa

**2024: Post graduate research grant** of Nelson Mandela University (100000ZAR), South Africa

**02/2023 - 12/2024: National Research Foundation** post-doctoral bursary from Prof. Jan Venter's "Game of Thrones" project (400000ZAR), South Africa

**20/05/2021: Best poster prize of Décryp'thèse student conference** of the doctoral school E2M2 (300€), France

**06/2020: Outreach funding of Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique** to develop an awareness-rising workshop for children (impacts of climate change on African wildlife) (300€), France

**10/2018 - 10/2021: Ministerial scholarship** from the competitive exam of the doctoral school E2M2 to support a Ph.D. at Claude Bernard University (64000€), France

**12/2018: Prize of the Polytechnic National Institute of Toulouse** for an exceptional training path (200€), France

**06/2017 - 08/2017: Mouv'box mobility grant of Toulouse Universities** to support an internship at Lajuma Research Centre (1000€), South Africa

**06/2017 - 08/2017: International mobility grant of Midi-Pyrénées region** to support an internship at Lajuma Research Centre (840€), South Africa

**06/2017 - 08/2017: Mobility grant of the Polytechnic National Institute of Toulouse** to support an internship at Lajuma Research Centre (800€), South Africa

## SCIENTIFIC OUTREACH AND MEDIA COVERAGE

- 12/12/2023: Décllic**, outreach action (virtual) at Louis Rascol high school in Albi (France)
- 2023: maintenance of a blog** with monthly publications of outreach articles (online)
- 12/12/2022: Décllic**, outreach action at Jean-Pierre Vernant high school in Pins Justaret (France)
- 01/12/2022: Comptoir des sciences**, virtual outreach meeting with children at Jeanne Couvry primary school in Gargenville (France)
- 30/09/2022: European Researchers' Night** in Toulouse (France)
- 24/06/2022: Scientific outreach actions for children** at Aubrac primary school in Albi (France)
- 10/12/2021, 17/12/2021 and 11/01/2022: Scientific outreach actions for children** at Saut du Sabo secondary school in Saint Juéry (France)
- 05/10/2021 - 02/01/2022: Scientific outreach actions for the general public** at the "Fête de la Science" (steering committee and speaker) in Lyon (France)
- 28/08/2021: Scientific outreach action for the general public** at the "Conférences embarquées du CNRS" in Lyon (France)
- 05/05/2021: Media interview for the publication of an outreach article** in *Le Progrès* newspaper: "Les naissances auront-elles toujours lieu au printemps ?" (Lyon, France)
- 08/04/2021: Scientific outreach action for graduate students** at the "BARCamp" (share your Ph.D. experience event) in Lyon (France)
- 02/10/2020 - 12/10/2020: Scientific outreach actions for the general public** at the "Fête de la Science" (steering committee and speaker) in Lyon (France)
- 29/08/2020: Scientific outreach action for the general public** at the "Conférences embarquées du CNRS" in Lyon (France)
- 10/06/2020: Publication of an outreach article** in *Pop'Sciences* journal of Lyon Universities: "Changements climatiques et dates de naissance" (Lyon, France)
- 05/10/2019: Scientific outreach for the general public** at "Fête de la Science" (speaker) in Lyon (France)

## SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

**Computer skills:** R, Office, Mark, Aardwolf

### Field work:

- Carried out in France: **telemetric monitoring** for the evaluation of reproductive success in roe deer (Chizé, 11/11/2018 - 21/11/2018 and 10/11/2020 - 17/11/2020), roe deer **net capture** for scientific monitoring (Fabas, 10/02/2022), **acoustic replay** to study vigilance behaviour in roe deer (Hauteville, 01/09/2021)
- Carried out in South Africa: behavioural **scan sampling**, **camera trapping** and **feces analysis** of the yellow-spotted rock hyrax (mount Lajuma, 06/2017 - 08/2017); **camera trap servicing** (Associate Private Nature Reserves, 06/02/2023 – 08/02/2023); lion **captures** for GPS collars and biological sampling (Pilanesberg, 17/02/2023 – 25/02/2023); demographic survey for **spatial explicit capture-recapture analysis** (Marakele, Marataba, Kruger, 2023, 2024); **allometric measurements in trees** in response to elephant utilisation (Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, 15/04/2024 – 21/04/2024)

**Languages:** French (mother tongue), English (fluent), Spanish (beginner knowledge)

*Published*

**Thel L.\***, Stols D.\*, Orth S., Lagendijk G., Slotow R., Venter J., Fritz H. (2025). Long-term effects of an elephant-dominated browser community on the architecture of trees in a fenced reserve. *Biotropica*, in press (<https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.12.18.629108>)

**Thel L.**, Pineaux M., Ribeiro L., Danchin E., Whelan S., Hatch S. A., Blanchard P., Leclaire S. (2025). MHC-IIb disassortative mate choice in a genetically monogamous seabird. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, in press (<https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.12.19.629314>)

**Thel L.**, Bonenfant C., Chamaillé-Jammes S. (2025). Good moms: dependent young and their mothers cope better than others with longer dry season in plains zebras. *Oecologia* 207(45) (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00442-025-05676-6>)

**Thel L.**, Garel M., Marchand P., Bourgoïn G., Loison A. (2024). Too hot or too disturbed? Temperatures more than hikers affect circadian activity of females in northern chamois. *Animal Behaviour* 210: 347-367 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2024.01.010>).

**Thel L.**, Chamaillé-Jammes S., Bonenfant C. (2022). How to describe and measure phenology? An investigation on the diversity of metrics using phenology of births in large herbivores. *Oikos* 4: e08917 (<https://doi.org/10.1111/oik.08917>).

**Thel L.**, Chamaillé-Jammes S., Keurinck L., Catala M., Packer C., Huebner S., Bonenfant C. (2021). Can citizen science analysis of camera trap data be used to study reproduction? Lessons from Snapshot Serengeti program. *Wildlife Biology* 2: wlb-00833 (<https://doi.org/10.2981/wlb.00833>).

*In preparation*

van Rooyen N.\*, **Thel L.\***, Venter J., Fritz H., Prugnolle F., Rougeron V. Absence of reactive temporal response of baboons to the presence of predators (*International Journal of Primatology*, under revision, submitted in April 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.04.01.646592>)

Dzingwena L.\*, **Thel L.\***, Choisy M., Garbett R., ..., Venter J., Fritz H., Huchard E., Prugnolle F., Rougeron V. Climate and predation drive variation of diel activity patterns in chacma baboons (*Scientific Reports*, under revision, submitted in July 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.11.05.622068>)

Swanepoel H., **Thel L.**, Tambling C., Parrini F., Venter J. The use of NDGI and NDVI to monitor primary production across an aridity gradient in Southern Africa (in prep)

\* co-first authors

## ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- 06/10/2024 - 11/10/2024:** Oral presentation at the annual meeting of the [South African Wildlife Management Association](#) (Windhoek, Namibia): Good moms: dependent young and their mothers cope better than others with longer dry season in plains zebras
- 21/11/2023 - 22/11/2023:** Research project presentation at the [Lion Management Forum Meeting](#) (Marakele National Park, South Africa): Conservation and management implications of lion demography and sociality in open vs fenced reserves
- 11/09/2023 - 14/09/2023:** Oral presentation at the annual meeting of the [South African Wildlife Management Association](#) (Golden Gate National Park, South Africa): Combining camera trapping and citizen science to study reproduction in large antelopes: a difficult wedding
- 23/07/2023 - 27/07/2023:** Oral presentation at the [International Conference for Conservation Biology](#) (Kigali, Rwanda): Combining camera trapping and citizen science to study reproduction in large antelopes: a difficult wedding
- 23/07/2023 - 27/07/2023:** Poster presentation at the [International Conference for Conservation Biology](#) (Kigali, Rwanda): Does timing of birth affect foal and mare survival in wild plains zebras?
- 27/06/2022:** Invited talk at [Comportement et Ecologie de la Faune Sauvage Lab](#), Toulouse (France): Mesure et causes écologiques de la phénologie des naissances chez les grands mammifères herbivores
- 01/11/2021 - 05/11/2021:** Poster presentation at [The Wildlife Society Annual Conference](#), virtual: Does timing of birth affect foal and mare survival in wild plains zebras?
- 02/08/2021-06/08/2021:** Poster presentation at the [Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America](#), virtual: How to describe and measure phenology?
- 01/07/2021:** Invited talk at [Institut Pluridisciplinaire Hubert Curien](#), Strasbourg (France): Phenology of births in large herbivores: methods, causes and consequences
- 20/05/2021:** Poster presentation at [Décryp'thèse Student Conference \(Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1\)](#), virtual: Combining camera trapping and citizen science to study reproduction: a difficult wedding