

## Trip report

Student: Franceska Furik (ZH15FN), Department of Ethology, Doctoral School of Biology

To: SFECA 2025, Nanterre, France

Dates: June 10 – June 13, 2025

### I - Overall experience of the SFECA conference



My journey at the SFECA 2025 started on June 10th with a pre-conference that aimed to sensitize the researcher community to important social issues that urgently need to be included in our daily practices. Three main topics were addressed: (1) Inclusivity and diversity of profiles in the research field, (2) Animal welfare and the respect of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement), and (3) the environmental impacts of research. It was highly stimulating to reflect on this and to see many young researchers actively engaged for these causes.

On the other days, we were presented with diverse research trends and model species through key speakers and shorter talks of 10 minutes. It offered a unique opportunity to familiarize with the latest discoveries of our field: the phylogeny of cognitive abilities, emotional expression in animals, the ontogeny of social functions, the anthropogeny effects on animals behaviors, etc. Some presentations were specifically related to my research focus, thus providing noteworthy insights and inspirations for my current and future investigations. For instance, I really enjoyed:

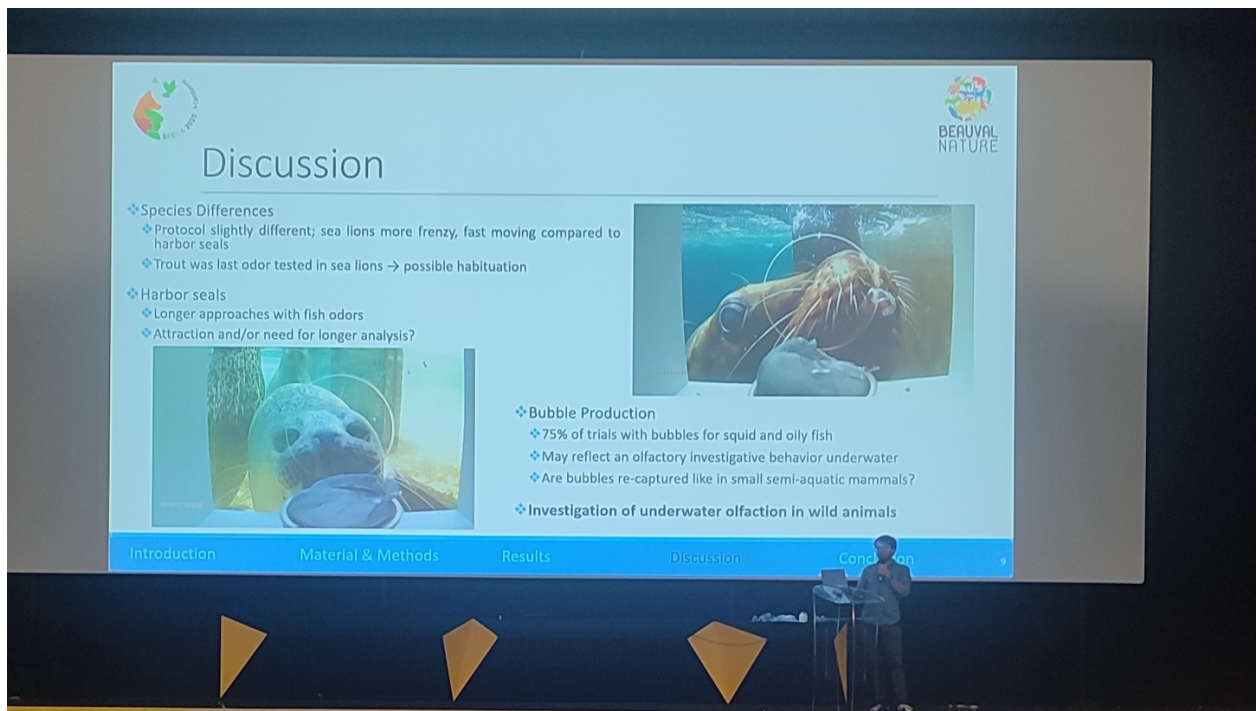
-More than fear: emotional arousal and social modulation in wild crested macaque anti-predator behaviour. Juliette Berthier *et al.*

-The effect of affinities within school classes on olfactory recognition between pupils: a study of six classes aged between 7 and 17. Pascal Mallet *et al.*

-When the voice trembles: non-linear phenomena as emotional cues in primates. Florence Levrero *et al.*

-Pheromonal information processing in the honey bee brain. Julie Carcaud *et al.*

-Can pinnipeds smell underwater? Jules Brochon *et al.*



On the second day, 11th of June, we had a poster session from 18:00 to 19:30. The posters covered a wide range of topics which led me to stimulating discussions with some of their authors. I particularly enjoyed the posters presenting dog researchers or researches on olfactory processing. Here are some examples:

- HAPtic harNESS: dogs' perception of haptic signal features. Hillary Jean-Joseph

-Development of sheep responsiveness to human body odour, specifically odour cues driven by emotional states. Izïa Larrigaldie

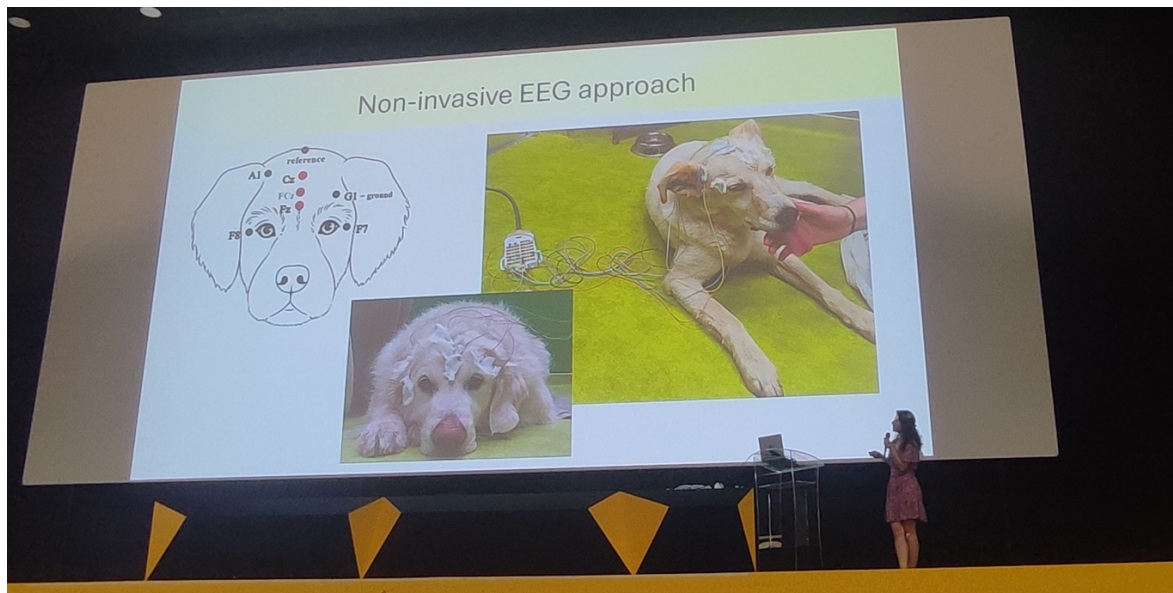
-Dogs and autism in urban areas: unexpected interactions and challenges of cohabitation. Manon Toutain



## II – Personal experience at the SFECA conference

On June 13th, I had the great pleasure to present the results of my first PhD research, which I conducted at the Neuroethology of Communication Lab, Department of Ethology, Doctoral School of Biology, TTK ELTE University, Budapest, Hungary. I had a 10 minutes talk to present: “A non-invasive EEG study on processing human emotional odors and sounds in dogs.” This talk initiated many enriching discussions related to the theoretical and methodological aspects of my research while allowing me to extend my social research network. For instance, I discussed with (1) Izia Larrigaldie and Alexandra Destrez, who are working on the effect of emotional human body odors on farm animals, (2) Camille Cagnot, who is working on the welfare of court assistance dogs, and (3) Céline Rochais, who is working with non-invasive EEG approach on horses.





(It's me on the photo with my presentation)

In addition, thanks to this event, I was able to meet important figures of the French ethology community: such as Dr. Odile Petit, Dr. Marine Grandgeorges, Dr. Adrien Meguerditchian, Dr. Raphaëlle Malassis. In addition, I was also able to meet in person my former Master's teachers : Dr. David Sillam-Dussès, Dr. François Féron, Dr. Stéphane Chameron, Dr. Cédric Zimmer, Dr. Gilles Gheusi, and Dr. Heiko Rodel; but also my former supervisors: Dr. Anne Bobin-Bègue and Dr. Heiko Rodel, with whom we agreed separately to publish a paper together and to build protocols for innovative questions. To finish, I met a post-doc, Dr. Tiffany Volle, who registered me in a course of Bayesian statistics, which will allow me to model my data with higher accuracy in my future studies.

### III - Conclusion

In conclusion, the SFECA 2025 was an immense success for me, both at formal and informal level. It allowed me to reinforce and enrich my knowledge in ethology, but also to increase and strengthen my scientific network. Promising collaborations should come through sooner or later. Taken together, this experience will have fruitful consequences for my professional career.

I thank the Talent Support Council for partly funding my trip to the SFECA 2025.

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Here is my certificate of attendance written in French.



## 54ème Colloque de la Société Française pour l'Etude du Comportement Animal

Le comité d'organisation du 54<sup>ème</sup> colloque de la Société  
Française pour l'Etude du Comportement Animal,  
certifie que

.....a  
Franceska Furik  
participé au colloque de la SFECA du ..10. /..06. /..25.. au  
.....13. /..06. /..25.. à l'Université Paris Nanterre

☐ Pas de communication

☒ A donné une communication intitulée :

.....A non-invasive eeg study on processing human emotional odors  
and sounds in dogs  
.....  
.....

le ..... /..... /.....

Attestation établie pour servir et valoir ce que de droit,  
fait à Nanterre le ..13. /..06. /..25..

