



JENNIE CRAWLEY

From Finland to France



Project: **Human-elephant interactions**

Research topic: **Biology**

Finnish Institution: **University of Turku**

French Institution: **Centre of evolutionary and functional ecology (Montpellier) and University of Claude Bernard (Lyon)**

Dates of mobility: **09/11/2021 to 19/11/2021**

Program: **Maupertuis Programme**



PRESENTATION

[Jennie Crawley](#) is a final year PhD student studying human-elephant interactions at the [University of Turku](#). She investigates how the relationships between semi-captive elephants and their traditional handlers influence the elephants in terms of their health, physiological stress and behaviour. This project integrates knowledge and skills from many different disciplines to form a holistic understanding of the impact on the elephants spanning veterinary medicine, endocrinology and both behavioural and social sciences.

ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

The aims of her visit were to discuss future opportunities to collaborate and apply for research funding involving the university of Turku, [CEFE](#) and [Lyon 1](#) and to learn and carry out lab work to collect data for this project. Her visit to CEFE in Montpellier was focused on meeting and discussing with potential collaborators in the human-animal interactions group. Jennie Crawley presented her work in a research seminar, which led to very fruitful and interesting discussions with the group as a whole. Jennie Crawley also had separate meetings with the principal investigators in this group, [Olivier Giminez](#), [Gilles Maurer](#) and [Sarah Cubaynes](#) about future directions and their common fields. The majority of her time was spent at Lyon 1 university, to both create a scientific network with researchers there and learn essential laboratory skills from [Dr Stier](#). Specifically, Dr Stier trained her in quantitative PCR skills that she used to collect data but she will also apply to future research. The laboratory work was successful, and she now have preliminary data to use in a post-doctoral grant application to carry on this research in collaboration with the University of Lyon 1. The visit allowed her to learn more about the research environment at Lyon 1 and build professional relationships across two different departments ([LEHNA](#) & [LBBE](#)) there. One of the people she met with was [Jeff Lemaître](#), who is one of the few people to have studied the impact of stress on telomere dynamics in mammals, the subject of my future work and funding applications.