



**HEIKKI HELANTERÄ**

From Finland to France



Project: **Ant colonies, superorganism**

Research topic: **Biology**

Finnish Institution: **University of Oulu**

French Institution: **Institut francilien d'éthologie, Sorbonne University**

Dates of mobility: **29/11/2021 to 05/12/2021**

Program: **Maupertuis Programme**



## PRESENTATION

[Heikki Helanterä](#) is an Associate professor in Evolutionary genomics at [University of Oulu, Ecology and genetics research unit](#). He obtained his PhD in 2005 and has been since carrying out multidisciplinary studies on social evolution and insect behaviour. He has published over 80 peer reviewed papers or book chapters, and a popular science monograph on ants. He has a broad range of collaborations across the globe and in many research fields within biology, but also in mathematics, philosophy and political sciences. He is a member of Ötökkäakatemia science communication project ("the Bug Academy") and in the organisation committee of [Biosynteesi](#) multidisciplinary popular science symposium. Dr. Helanterä is an Associate editor in two journals ([Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution](#), [Myrmecologica News](#)) and has peer-reviewed manuscripts for over 30 journals, including leading journals such as [Nature](#), [PNAS](#), [Proceedings of the Royal Society B](#).

## ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

During his visit, Heikki Helanterä discussed with [Prof. Patrizia d'Ettorre](#) on future applications. He also had informal discussions of the social insect researchers present and tour of the facilities and study set-ups of ants and termites. Then he spent a full day visiting [Prof. Thibaud Monnin](#) at [Institut d'Écologie et des Sciences de l'Environnement de Paris \(iEES Paris\), Sorbonne Université](#). He gave a presentation on his ongoing work on ant colonies as superorganisms to the group of Prof. Monnin and other scientists, and engaged in one-on-one meetings with Prof. Monnin's PhD students who presented their projects to him. He had a talk organized by [Institut Francilien d'Éthologie \(IFE\)](#) on premises of [Univ. Sorbonne Paris Nord](#). Heikki Helanterä took part of a poster session and social event of the [4th International Student Course in Behavioural Biology](#), organised by the IFE. He was able to have a long conversation with [Dr. Claudie Doums](#) from [CNRS, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle de Paris and l'École Pratique des Hautes Etudes](#). He had a discussions with Prof. d'Ettorre concerning the research plan and future funding applications.