

Workshop

Novelty, Co-option and Divergence During Gene Network Evolution



14 – 17 June 2026
Buxted Park
East Sussex, UK



Funded places for early-career researchers

Recent studies on the evolution of novel traits provide a window of opportunity to understand how existing gene-regulatory networks (GRNs) are redeployed to new developmental contexts during evolution. Several GRNs controlling organ development and physiology have been studied in animal models, but we lack a basic understanding of how these might have evolved. To understand how GRNs change during evolution, at this Workshop we will discuss how novelty evolves in existing GRNs and how such variations are selected to facilitate adaptation.

We hope to bring together researchers working on gene regulation, developmental biology, mathematical modelling and evolution. The invited researchers work on a variety of complex systems and are examining how these systems originated and have evolved over time. By comparing perspectives and experimental approaches to examine the evolution of their specific systems, we hope to draw common threads that may be applicable to most systems, and we aim to highlight these after the Workshop in a Review article.

Organisers

James Hombría
Antónia Monteiro

Speakers

Isabel Almudí Cabrero
Michalis Averof
Heather Bruce
Margarida Cardoso Moreira
James DiFrisco
Anna Di Gregorio

Nuria Flames
Mark S. Halfon
Veronica Hinman
Aurélie Hintermann
Junil Kim
Javier Lopez-Rios

Alistair P. McGregor
Joe Parker
Yoshi Tomoyasu
Marco Trizzino
Patrick Tschopp
Berta Verd

Secure your place* alongside leading experts and other early-career researchers from a diverse range of scientific backgrounds.

Deadline: 5 December 2025

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