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Websites

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=PVY4WL4AAAAJ&hl=en>
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Current Position

Leverhulme Trust SAS grantee & Postdoctoral Researcher, BEOM Department, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Villa Comunale, Napoli, 80121, Italy

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Education

2020 PhD in Psychology (Biology), University of Cambridge, UK

2015 MSc in Anthropology (Biology), University of Zurich, Switzerland

2013 Laurea Magistrale in Comportamento Animale, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Italy

Biographical sketch

Piero Amodio is an early career biologist with a broad interest in the study of the behaviour and cognition of non-human animals. He has worked on a variety of species and topics, from learning and camouflage in the octopus, to tool use in jays and nest-building behaviour in orangutans. In his PhD, he investigated convergent cognitive evolution with a focus on corvids (birds in the crow family) and cephalopods (octopus, cuttlefish and squid).

Amodio is currently working as a Postdoctoral researcher at the SZN. His research aims at promoting a deeper understanding of cognitive evolution in cephalopods by **i)** testing octopus' flexibility in solving physical and social problems, and **ii)** assembling an accurate brain-size dataset for multiple species of Mediterranean cephalopods in compliance ethical and animal welfare principles. This work is funded by the Leverhulme Trust (UK).

In parallel, Amodio is leading the first scientific expedition to study the Larger Striped Pacific Octopus – an elusive and highly social species of octopus – in the wild. Amodio and his team will work with Mexican fishermen to locate and collect behavioural and ecological data on this fascinating species. This project will also allow to test the potential of underwater drones as tools to conduct prolonged observations of marine animals from remote (i.e., from a boat). This research is funded by National Geographic, The Explorers Club, ASAB, Linnean Society of London, Malacological Society of London.

Five Representative Publications

Schnell A. K., **Amodio P.**, Boeckle M., and Clayton N.S. *In Press*. How intelligent is a cephalopod? Lessons from comparative cognition. *Biol. Rev.* doi.org/10.1111/brv.12651

Amodio P., Boeckle M., Jelbert S., Ostojic L., and Clayton N. S., 2020. How flexible is tool use in Eurasian jays (*Garrulus glandarius*)? *ABC*, 7(3): 270-287. doi.org/10.26451/abc.07.03.02.2020

Amodio P., Boeckle M., Schnell A. K., Ostojic L., Fiorito G., and Clayton N. S., 2019. Grow Smart and Die Young: Why Did Cephalopods Evolve Intelligence? *Trends Ecol. Evol.*, 34: 45-56. doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2018.10.010.

Amodio P., and Fiorito G., 2013. Observational and other types of learning in Octopus. In: Menzel, R. & Benjamin, P. (Eds.). *Invertebrate Learning and Memory*. Elsevier. doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-415823-8.00023-X

Josef N., **Amodio P.**, Fiorito G., and Shashar N., 2012. Camouflaging in a Complex Environment. Octopuses Use Specific Features of Their Surroundings for Background Matching. *PLoS ONE*, 7:e37579. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0037579