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### Exploration in red knots

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## Exploration in red knots

The role of personality in the expression of individual behaviour across contexts

Selin Ersoy

1. “For much of the twentieth century, animal personality was comparative psychology’s moon: clearly visible, obvious to any observer, yet decidedly impossible to bring into the laboratory for study.”  
*W. Whitham and D. A. Washburn (2017), “Personality in Nonhuman Animals”, p3.*
2. Individual differences in behaviour can be consistent over time and/or across different contexts and hence, are likely to have consistent ecological and evolutionary consequences.  
*Chapter 1*
3. Personality traits can be more consistent in standard experimental setups where conditions are controlled but in the wild, animals show flexible behaviour in response to changing environmental cues.  
*Chapter 4*
4. Behavioural traits that are consistent within, but vary between individuals, can develop through positive feedback between behaviour and its outcome during development.  
*Chapter 3*
5. Individuals with different personalities may have different costs and benefits associated with their different tactics that nevertheless result in overall equally successful strategies.  
*Box 1*
6. “Disentangling the continuous interactions and feedbacks between phenotypic traits and the environment is, however, no easy task, as it requires the disentangling of an endless knot.”  
*A. I. Bijleveld, PhD Thesis (2016), PhD Thesis, “Untying the knot”: Chapter 10*
7. “The key to the evolutionary role of behaviour is not lability alone, but a combination of lability and consistency with which given behaviours occur in given conditions.”  
*Mary Jane West-Eberhard (1989), “Phenotypic plasticity and the origins of diversity”, p.253.*
8. “A personality is the product of a clash between two opposing forces: the urge to create a life of one’s own and the insistence by the world around us that we conform.”  
*Hermann Hesse (1991), “Soul of the Age: Selected Letters 1891-1962”, p. 203.*
9. “Seedlings from the same fruit, and the young of the same litter, sometimes differ considerably from each other, though both the young and the parents have apparently been exposed to exactly the same conditions of life; and this shows how unimportant the direct effects of the conditions of life are in comparison with the laws of reproduction, and of growth, and of inheritance; for had the action of the conditions been direct, if any of the young had varied, all would probably have varied in the same manner.”  
*C. Darwin (1859), “On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life”, (sixth ed.), p.12.*
10. “You are what you eat ... plus a few per mil”  
*DeNiro and Epstein (1976), Geol. Soc. Am., 8: 834–835.*