

The Katz lab at Smith College/UMass-Amherst is seeking PhD students to join projects that focus on biodiversity and genome evolution of eukaryotic microbes. Work in the Katz lab aims to elucidate principles of the evolution in eukaryotes through analyses of microbial lineages, and to assess how these principles apply (or fail to apply) to other organisms. Currently we focus on several interrelated projects including: (1) characterizing evolutionary relationships among eukaryotes; (2) exploring the evolution of germline/soma distinctions in eukaryotic genomes; and (3) describing the forces driving the biodiversity of protists (mainly ciliates and amoebae) in local environments (e.g. bogs and fens, coastal habitats). More details can be found here: <http://www.science.smith.edu/katz-lab/research/>.

A graduate student joining the lab would have opportunities to improve skills in field work, single-cell 'omics, both light and fluorescence microscopy, and bioinformatics. Interested students will be put in touch with current/past graduate students who can share their perspectives on the Katz lab, the UMass-OEB program, and Northampton.

Smith College is a member of the Five College Consortium with Amherst, Hampshire, and Mount Holyoke Colleges and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Hence, Ph.D. students join the Katz lab through the Organismic and Evolutionary Biology (OEB; <http://gpls.cns.umass.edu/oeb>) based at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Prospective students are invited to email their c.v. and a brief statement of interest to Laura Katz (lkatz@smith.edu), and pursue the formal application through the UMass OEB program (<http://gpls.cns.umass.edu/oeb/admissions>).