

# Franz Kainz

Harvard University  
16 Divinity Ave, BL4109, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA  
Email: fkainz@fas.harvard.edu • Phone: +1 617 407 0548  
Date of Birth: 19 Jan. 1980 • Nationality: Austrian

## EDUCATION

- 2005-2009 **PhD in Developmental Genetics**  
*Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, UK*  
*since 08/2007: visiting scholar at Harvard University, Cambridge, USA*  
Fellow of the Zoonet Marie Curie Research Training Network  
Thesis supervisors: Dr. Cassandra Extavour (Harvard), Prof. Michael Akam (Cambridge)  
Thesis topic: Analysis of the genetic mechanisms during embryonic development in *Gryllus bimaculatus* through gene expression studies and RNAi-mediated knockdowns.
- 1998-2005 **Mag.rer.nat. (MSc) in Zoology, summa cum laude**  
*Karl-Franzens Universität, Graz, Austria*  
Major in Neurobiology and Informatics. Thesis supervisor: Prof. Heinrich Römer  
Thesis topic: Tuning of an auditory responsive interneuron in two field cricket species.
- 1990-1998 **Grammar School A-levels (Matura) with distinction**  
*Bundesrealgymnasium Kepler, Graz, Austria*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES AND TRAINING

- 10/2009 - present **Postdoctoral Research Associate**  
*Department for Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University, USA*  
Laboratory of Dr. Cassandra Extavour
- 2006 & 2008 (2 weeks each) **EMBO Courses: Molecular Approaches to Evolution and Development**  
*Kristinebergs Marina Forskningsstation, Fiskebäckskil, Sweden*  
*Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Naples, Italy*
- 2005 (3 months) **Research Assistant for Neural Control of *Drosophila* Locomotion**  
*University of Toronto, Canada*  
Research project on genetic alteration of neurons in the nervous system of *Drosophila melanogaster* and the consequences for locomotion of third instar larvae.  
Laboratory of Prof. Harold L. Atwood
- 2003 (2 months) **Research Assistant for 3D Reconstruction of Butterfly Flight**  
*Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Barro Colorado Island, Panama.*  
Developed software in Matlab for the quantification of wing beats in free-flying butterflies.  
Project leader: Dr. Robert B. Srygley, funded by the National Geographic Society.
- 2002 (3 months) **Research Assistant for Neural Control of Bush Cricket Communication**  
*Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Barro Colorado Island, Panama.*  
Conducted electro-physiological recordings from auditory interneurons of tropical bush crickets and assisted in a field survey of bush crickets in the rainforest of Barro Colorado Island.  
Project leader: Prof. Heinrich Römer, funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF).

- 2001-2002  
(14 months)      **Alternative Military Service in Holocaust Museum**  
*Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, Canada*  
Developed a database in a team comprising the Museum's collection of documents, artefacts and correspondences. Involved in presentations in high school classes and local radio stations and participated in a series of research projects and translations of German documents for Holocaust survivors.
- 1998-2000  
(5 months)      **Technical Assistant for Environmental Projects**  
*Ökoteam, Graz, Austria*  
Involved in data analysis and fieldwork with focus on entomology.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2008  
(3 months)      *Department for Molecular and Cell Biology, Harvard University*  
Teaching assistant for first year graduate students in *Genetics, Genomics and Evolutionary Biology*; average student rating: 4.4 (scale: 1-5; 4: very good, 5: excellent)
- 2006-07      *Department of Zoology, Cambridge University*  
Teaching assistant for *Biology of cells A & B; Drosophila embryonic development; Evolution and behaviour of annelids*
- 2002-05      *Institut für Zoologie, Karl-Franzens Universität*  
Teaching assistant for *Effects of neurotransmitters on the semi-isolated crayfish heart; Communication of electrical fish; Animal behaviour in zoos and labs; Neural mechanisms of orientation*

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Languages      German (mother tongue), English (fluent), French (good), Spanish (fair)
- Software      Computer languages: Matlab, C; Bioinformatics: CLC Bio, Vector NTI, GCG, MrBayes, BioEdit; Office programs: Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Photoshop, Illustrator; Database: Filemaker

## ACTIVITIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2009-present      Member of the **ASCINA Boston executive team**. Organization for Austrian scientists and scholars in North America
- 2006-07      Co-founder and committee member of the **Austrian Cambridge Society**, Cambridge, UK
- 2003-04      **Representative of my student hall of residence** in Graz, Austria, responsible for a budget of € 12,000 pa.
- 1998-2000      **Representative of the province Styria within *auslandsdienst.at***, which is an organization for various kinds of alternative services abroad in lieu of the compulsory Austrian military service. Worked in a team organizing a 3-day seminar titled "Racism and Xenophobia" with more than 150 participants, consisting of scientific talks and a press conference.

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

road and mountain biking, skiing, hiking, remote controlled airplanes, podcasts on entrepreneurship and science, fiction and nonfiction novels