



Mike Dickison

Curriculum Vitæ

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Education

- 1998 B.Sc. Honours (first class) in Zoology and Philosophy
Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand
- 2007 PhD in Zoology
Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
Dissertation title: *The Allometry of Giant Flightless Birds*

Employment

- 1990-94 Assistant Curator • Natural History department, Museum of New Zealand
Wrote publicity material and developed exhibitions.
- 1995 Freelance science journalist
- 1995-98 Computing and desktop publishing tutor • Outlook Resources, Karori Learning Centre
Taught word processing, page layout, design, and typography to long-term unemployed and recent immigrants.
- 1999 Programme coordinator for desktop publishing • Whitireia Community Polytechnic
Created, administered, and taught a full-time DTP course, including PageMaker, Photoshop, FreeHand, HTML, print production, design, and typography.
- 2001-06 Computer trainer • Office of Information Technology, Duke University • NC, USA
Ran workshops primarily in Excel, Dreamweaver, Photoshop, advanced Word, Illustrator, scanning, and PowerPoint. Helped create and staff the Multimedia Project Studio.
- 2007-08 Information designer • EOS Ecology • Christchurch, NZ
Using Adobe CS3 for design and print production of scientific posters, field guide, research reports, and book covers; design and implementation of mail surveys; creation of logo and graphic identity; and biological illustrations, original art, maps, and information graphics.

Skills

- **Research**, specialising in the evolution of flightless birds, especially the ratites, and the differential scaling of bones and eggs associated with size increase. Maintain the *Moa Pages* at www.moapages.info, which have generated a public enquiry from museums or schoolchildren every couple of weeks since 1999.
- **Information design**, especially improved techniques for the graphical presentation of scientific data. Have ran workshops for scientists at Duke University, the National Center for Evolutionary Synthesis, and the University of Queensland. Maintain a blog on data presentation for scientists, *Pictures of Numbers*, (www.numberpix.com) with tips, techniques, reading lists, and makeovers of data graphics. Currently working on a book of practical data graphics techniques for scientists.
- **Web design** and CSS. Interested in the use of blog software and the open-source Omeka project to make museum web pages easier to maintain (pilot project with the North Otago Museum; see www.adzebill.com for portfolio).
- **Editing**, especially proofreading, indexing, and conversion of text to CSS-based HTML (in the past for Duke University, MIT Press, and University of Chicago Press).
- **Writing**, primarily for the Wellington *Evening Post* (including a regular column, *Museum Notebook*), Christchurch *Star* (theater reviewer), *Terra Nova*, and *New Zealand Science Monthly*. Currently writing *Kete Ukulele*, a ukulele instruction book for New Zealanders (AUT Media, July 2008).
- **Teaching** computer applications, data graphics techniques, editing, and typography. Troubleshooter for clients in the Duke Multimedia Project Studio, and ran workshops for Duke's Office of Information Technology (see handouts at www.giantflightlessbirds.com/workshops).

Publications

- Sterelny, K., K. C. Smith, and M. Dickison. 1996. The extended replicator. *Biology and Philosophy* 11: 377–403
- Dickison, M. 2003. The Lost World of the Moa (review). *Condor* 105: 834–835
- Dickison, M. and V. L. Roth. In prep. The allometry of ratite eggs.
- Dickison, M. In prep. The biogeography of ratite birds.

Presentations

- “A new species of flightless sandpiper from Henderson Island.” (poster). American Ornithologists’ Union, September 2002.
- “Are birds small?” Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, January 2004
- “Are kiwi eggs large? The allometry of ratite reproductive output.” *Evolution*, June 2007

Awards and Grants

- 1999–00 Ray J. Tysor Fellowship • *Full financial support for first year*
- 1999–04 James B. Duke Fellowship • *Stipend supplement for four years*
- 2001–04 American Ornithologists’ Union Membership Grant
- 2001–02 American Museum Collection Study Grant
- 2002 Delaware Museum of Natural History Scholarship
- 2002 Duke Biology Department Grant-in-Aid • *purchase of measuring equipment*
- 2003 American Museum Chapman Fellowship • *research in New Zealand and Australia*
- 2003, 2004 Vienna Institute Summer University fellowships • *Two-week graduate courses*
- 2004 Duke Biology Department Grant-in-Aid • *research in Paris, Vienna, Berlin, and London*
- 2004 Society for Systematic Biology mini-PEET • *learning osteology at the Smithsonian*

Teaching Assistantships

- 2000 Bio 222: Entomology
- 2001, 2004 Bio 44: Evolution and Society
- 2001–02 Bio 25L: Introductory Biology
- 2003 Bio 47: Biology of Dinosaurs
- 2004 Bio 108: Comparative Vertebrate Morphology
- 2006 ISIS 140: Web-based Multimedia Communications

Professional Societies

- Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution
- Society for Systematic Biology
- Ornithological Society of New Zealand

References

Prof. **Louise Roth** • *Advisor*
Biology Department
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