

# Bárbara Domingues Bitarello

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## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D. in Biology (Genetics)** 2016  
Department of Genetics and Evolutionary Biology, University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil  
Advisor: Diogo Meyer
- M.Sc. in Biology (Genetics)** 2011  
Department of Genetics and Evolutionary Biology, University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
- B.Sc. in Biological Sciences** 2007  
University of Campinas, Campinas, Brazil  
Licentiate Degree in Biological Sciences: teaching training for Elementary school

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania** 2018-Present  
Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Genetics  
Advisor: Iain Mathieson  
Main project: Loss of accuracy in polygenic risk score in admixed populations
- Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology** 2016-2017  
Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Evolutionary Genetics  
Advisor: Aida Andrés  
Main project: Adaptive evolution in the human lineage
- University of São Paulo** 2011-2016  
Graduate Researcher, Department of Genetics and Evolutionary Biology  
Advisor: Diogo Meyer  
Ph.D. thesis: “Balancing selection in the human genome: biological relevance and deleterious consequence”, 2016  
Visiting graduate, Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, 2013  
Master’s Thesis: “Natural Selection on HLA genes: a molecular investigation of the location and timing of selection events”, 2011
- University of Campinas, Campinas, Brazil** 2015-2007  
Research Assistant, Department of Genetics  
Advisor: Ana Maria Lima de Azeredo-Espin  
Main project: “Development of polymorphic microsatellite markers for the human botfly, *Dermatobia hominis* (Diptera: Oestridae)”

1. *Genome-wide analysis identifies genetic effects on reproductive success and ongoing natural selection at the FADS locus.*  
Mathieson, I; Day, FR; Barban, N; Tropf, FC; Brazel, DM; eQTLGen Consortium; BIOS Consortium; Vaez, A; Zuydam, N; **Bitarello, BD**; Snieder, H; Hoed, M; Ong, KK; Mills, MC; Perry, JR  
bioRxiv, 2020
2. *Polygenic scores for height in admixed populations.*  
**Bitarello, BD**; Mathieson, I  
G3:Genes, Genomes, Genetics, 2020
3. *Evolutionary and functional impact of common polymorphic inversions in the human genome.*  
Giner-Delgado, C; Villatoro, S; Lerga-Jaso, J; Gayà-Vidal, M; Oliva, M; Castellano, D; Pantano, L; **Bitarello, BD** et al. (12 additional authors)  
Nature Communications, 2019
4. *Signatures of Long-Term Balancing Selection in Human Genomes.*  
**Bitarello, BD**; Filippo, C; Teixeira, JC; Schmidt, JM; Kleinert, P; Meyer, D; Andrés, AM  
Genome Biology and Evolution, 2018
5. *Heterogeneity of dN/dS Ratios at the Classical HLA Class I Genes over Divergence Time and Across the Allelic Phylogeny.*  
**Bitarello, BD**; Francisco, RS; Meyer, D  
Journal of Molecular Evolution, 2016
6. *Mapping bias overestimates reference allele frequencies at the HLA genes in the 1000 genomes project phase I data.*  
Brandt, DY; Aguiar, VR; **Bitarello, BD**; Nunes, K; Goudet, J; Meyer, D  
G3: Genes, Genomes, Genetics, 2015
7. *HLA supertype variation across populations: new insights into the role of natural selection in the evolution of HLA-A and HLA-B polymorphisms.*  
Francisco, RDS; Buhler, S; Nunes, JM; **Bitarello, BD**; França, GS; Meyer, D; Sanchez-Mazas, A  
Immunogenetics, 2015
8. *Kiwi genome provides insights into evolution of a nocturnal lifestyle.*  
Le Duc, D; Renaud, G; Krishnan, A; Almén, MS; Huynen, L; Prohaska, SJ; Ongyerth, M;  
**Bitarello, BD** et al. 7 additional authors  
Genome Biology, 2015
9. *Development of polymorphic microsatellite markers for the human botfly, Dermatobia hominis (Diptera: Oestridae).*  
**Bitarello, BD**; Torres, TT; Lyra, ML; Azeredo-Espin, AML  
Molecular Ecology Resources, 2009

## Review & Opinion Articles

10. *A genomic perspective on HLA evolution.*  
Meyer, D, Aguiar, VRC, **Bitarello, BD**, Brandt, D, Nunes, K  
Immunogenetics, 2017.
11. *Intercruzamento de humanos modernos e neandertais: novas perspectivas a luz da genética [Interbreeding of modern humans with Neanderthals: new perspectives in the light of genetics]*  
**Bitarello, BD**; Meyer, D  
Revista da Biologia, 2011.
12. *Projeto Genográfico e as implicações da popularização dos estudos de genealogia gênica [The Geographic Project and the implications of the popularization of Gene Genealogy Studies]*  
**Bitarello, BD**  
Revista da Biologia, 2009.

## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

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### Research interests

Human genetics, population genetics, population genomics, genomic medicine, predictive modeling, statistical genetics, genetic epidemiology, immunogenetics, evolutionary genetics, neuropsychiatric genetics, immunogenetics, adaptive evolution, comparative genomics.

### Teaching interests

Evolutionary biology, comparative genomics, phylogenetics, statistical genetics, history of human genetics, computational biology, population genetics, biostatistics, introduction to genetics, introduction to evolutionary biology, machine learning, programming with R.

## TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

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### Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Teaching Assistant, 2020

Mini course: Intro to R for clinicians. Length: 4 hours.

### University of São Paulo

Co-supervisor of Research Assistants and Master's students, 2012-2017

Caroline Simões: We looked at data from my Ph.D. project. Caroline majored in Physics and is applying for grad school. Length: one year.

Débora Brandt: We explored HLA gene diversity in public databases. She pursued a Master's degree in our lab and is now a graduate student at UC Berkeley. Length: one semester.

Luiz Carlos Machado de Oliveira Junior: We explored the hitchhiking of deleterious variants in regions under positive selection in human genomes as his Master's project in our lab. He is not applying for grad school in the US. Length: (3 years, ongoing)

Guest lecturer, 2012

Graduate course in Evolutionary Genomics. I taught neutral coalescent simulations. Length: 4 hours

### Self-employed

English Tutoring, 2008

I prepared material and tutored English to undergraduate students. Length: one semester

### **Elementary School in Campinas, Brazil**

Supervised classroom experience, 2007

I prepared and delivered Science classes to fifth-graders under supervision. Length: 56 hours.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

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Best Graduate Student Paper, Genome Biology and Evolution [4], Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution, \$2,000, 2019.

Spotlight Trainee Paper [4], American Society of Human Genetics, 2019.

Ph.D. scholarship grant, São Paulo Research Foundation, Grant # 11/12500-2, 2011–2016

Visiting graduate student scholarship grant, São Paulo Research Foundation, Grant # 12/19563-2, 2013-2014

Scholarship to attend the Summer Institute for Statistical Genetics in Seattle, USA, 2012

Master's Student Scholarship, São Paulo Research Foundation, Grant # 08/56502-6, 2009-2011.

1<sup>st</sup> place in entrance examination for the graduate program, Department of Genetics and Evolutionary Biology, University of São Paulo, 2009

Undergraduate research scholarship from São Paulo Research Foundation, Grant # 06/50793-3, 2006-2007

## INVITED TALKS & CONTRIBUTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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“Investigating the lack of transferability of PRS in cohorts with mixed ancestry”, Annual Meeting of the Association of Genomic Diagnostics, Bonn, Germany, **Invited Talk**, 2020

What drives the reduced prediction accuracy of polygenic risk scores in non-European individuals?, Center for Theoretical and Evolutionary Genomics Seminar Series, Berkeley, USA, **Invited Talk**, 2020

Loss of predictive power of polygenic risk scores in admixed populations, The Allied Genetics Conference, Online, **Poster**, 2020

Low transferability of height polygenic risk scores in admixed ancestry populations, New York Area Population Genomics, New York, USA, **Contributed Talk**, 2020

Investigating the lack of transferability of polygenic risk scores in cohorts with admixed ancestry, Annual American Society of Human Genetics Meeting, Houston, USA, **Contributed Talk**, 2019

Polygenic risk scores perform poorly across populations, Annual American Society of Human Genetics Meeting, San Diego, USA **Contributed Talk**, 2017

Balancing selection in humans: insights from a novel SFS-based method, Annual Meeting of the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution, Vienna, Austria, **Poster**, 2015

NCV: A site frequency spectrum based method to detect balancing selection in humans, Annual Meeting of the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution, San Juan, Puerto Rico, **Poster**, 2014

Variation of dN/dS ratios at HLA genes over time and functional classes, Annual Meeting of the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution, Chicago, USA, **Poster**, 2013

Time dependence of dN/dS measures at HLA loci under balancing selection, Annual Meeting of the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution, Lyon, France, **Poster**, 2010

## RESEARCH RELATED SKILLS

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**Programming languages:** R, Bash scripting, sed/awk, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, markdown, Perl, Python (beginner)

**Software:** ldpred, plink, Hail, MSMS, SLiM, PAML, Rstudio, bcftools, vcftools, bedtools, HyPhy

**Data Science & Statistics** machine learning, linear modeling, data gathering, cleaning, exploration, visualization, reproducible research, documented code, statistical genetics, biostatistics, probability, MCMC

**Languages:** Portuguese (Native), English (Native), French (Intermediate), Spanish (Intermediate)

## ACADEMIC, PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

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### **Biomedical Postdoctoral Council Diversity Committee, 2020-Present**

Roles: Mentoring Circles - lead a small mentoring circle for undergraduate and graduate students; advocate for diversity and inclusion for postdocs

### **LatinGenomes: Latin American Alliance for Genomic Diversity**

Goal: to design and implement a network of cohorts and biobanks in the region.

Roles: Founding member and member of the Imputation Resources and Community Engagement workgroups.

<https://twitter.com/LatinGenomes>.

### **SACNAS, 2020-Present**

Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science

Roles: Review abstracts and scholarships and mentor younger scientists.

### **Brazilian Effort on Multifactorial Inheritance (BEMi), 2020-Present**

Goal: address under-representation of non-Europeans in genomic studies.

Roles: Founding and Steering Committee member

### ***Ad hoc* Reviewer**

Abstracts: Biomedical Postdoctoral Council Research Symposium, University of Pennsylvania.

Manuscripts: Genome Biology and Evolution, Human Immunology, Scientific Reports, Molecular Ecology Resources, Peer Community in Evolutionary Biology.

### **Scientific Outreach**

Guest speaker, “Bioinformatics Chat” podcast, January 2021. <https://bioinformatics.chat/>

My (mostly) science blog. Personal essays, tutorials, and short articles about scientific concepts and publications. <https://bbitarello.github.io/post/>

### **Consultant, 2015**

Consultant on ancient DNA for identification of forensic skeletal remains from victims of the military dictatorship in Brazil.