



## ISAE New Investigator Award 2017

***Dr. Irene Camerlink***

*Scotland's Rural College, United Kingdom*

Irene Camerlink is known for her energetic and enthusiastic input in research projects, which has resulted in numerous publications, outreach materials and student projects.

She received her PhD in 2014 at Wageningen University (Netherlands) where she studied the behaviour of pigs at the Animal Breeding and Genomic group as well as the Adaptation Physiology Group. Here she combined the fields of genetics and ethology to study the effects of selection for social genetic effects. Most notably, she was the first to look into specific social interactions between pigs in the form of social nosing. She showed that this nosing is rather neutral or positive (and even can benefit growth) instead of being a harmful behaviour as was previously thought. Her PhD dissertation eventually included eight peer-reviewed publications.

After her PhD she took up a post as postdoctoral researcher at SRUC (Edinburgh, UK) on a project on aggression in pigs, where she again bridged different research fields by applying a game theoretical framework to address animal welfare. The results were again published in high ranking journals with scopes crossing multiple disciplines (Scientific Reports; Animal Behaviour). As a result of her work, she received in 2016 the Young Investigators Award of the International Society for Research on Aggression (ISRA).

A new direction in her research is to acknowledge farmers' perception and willingness to change as an essential component for animal welfare to change in practice.

Over the last seven years, Irene has published 25 peer-reviewed publications, of which 14 as first author, and more than 20 conference abstracts. Besides scientific publications she actively pursues publication of the scientific work into the public domain, mainly targeting farmers' magazines. She also has been active in supervising close to 20 students with various study backgrounds.

### Selected publications

**Camerlink, I., Arnott, G., Farish, M., Turner, S.P.** (2016). Complex contests and the influence of aggressiveness in pigs. *Animal Behaviour* 121: 71-78.

**Camerlink, I., Reimert, I., Bolhuis, J.E.** (2016). Intranasal oxytocin administration in relationship to social behaviour in domestic pigs. *Physiology & Behavior* 163 (2016): 51-55.

**Camerlink, I., Turner, S. P., Farish, M., & Arnott, G.** (2015). Aggressiveness as a component of fighting ability in pigs using a game-theoretical framework. *Animal Behaviour*, 108, 183-191.

**Camerlink, I., Ursinus, W. W., Bijma, P., Kemp, B., Bolhuis, J. E.** (2014). Indirect genetic effects for growth rate in domestic pigs alter aggressive and manipulative biting behaviour. *Behavior Genetics*, 1-10.

**Camerlink, I., Turner, S. P., Ursinus, W. W., Reimert, I., Bolhuis, J. E.** (2014). Aggression and affiliation during social conflict in pigs. *PLoS one*, 9(11), e113502.