

# MICHAEL JOSEPH RYAN

*Clark Hubbs Regents Professor in Zoology  
Senior Research Associate, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute*

## *Short Resume*

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**Michael J. Ryan** is the Clark Hubbs Regents Professor in Zoology at the University of Texas, Austin. He received a BA in Life Sciences at Glassboro State College in New Jersey (1975), an MS in Zoology from Rutgers University at Newark (1977), and his Ph.D. in Neurobiology & Behavior from Cornell University (1982). He was then a Miller Postdoctoral Fellow in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California at Berkeley (1982-1984) before beginning a position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas where he has remained. He has been a Research Associate at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama since 1982, and currently is a Senior Research Associate there.

Ryan's primary research interests are in the evolution and mechanisms of animal behavior, especially animal communication and sexual selection.

Ryan is a Fellow of the *American Academy of Arts & Sciences*, the *American Association for the Advancement of Science*, the *Guggenheim Foundation*, the *Institute for Advanced Studies* in Berlin, and *Sigma Xi*. He has received the *Distinguished Animal Behaviorist Lifetime Achievement Award* from the Animal Behavior Society (2017), the *E.O. Wilson Naturalist Award* from the American Society of Naturalists (2010), the *Joseph Grinnell Medal* from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (UC, Berkeley; 2008), and the *Exemplar Award* from the Center for Integrative Studies in Animal Behavior (Indiana University, 2007). He also was selected as one of the *25 Leaders in Animal Behavior* (book published 2010, Cambridge Univ. Press).

Ryan has presented more than 150 invited lectures. He has also published more than 350 scientific papers (excluding Perspectives, News & Views, Primers, etc.) including 16 in *Science*, 3 in *Nature*, 6 in *PNAS USA*, and 4 in *Current Biology*. He has also published five books, two as sole author, one co-authored, and two edited volumes. His 1985 book *The Túngara Frog, A Study in Sexual Selection and Communication* is considered a classic in its field, and most recently in 2018, *A Taste for the Beautiful, The Evolution of Attraction*.

Ryan was honored in 2022 with the inauguration of the *Mike Ryan Fellowship Endowment* at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (endowed by Drs. Doug and Susan Morrison).

Ryan has served on numerous external reviews for science departments, has been on a number of panels for the National Science Foundation, and served on numerous editorial boards. He is currently on the Board of Reviewing Editors for *Science* which he joined in 2011, and was chairman of the *Scientific Advisory Board* of the Max Planck Institute in Seewiesen, Germany; he was on that board from 2010-2022. He is also Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of *Merlin Tuttle's Bat Conservation*.