

IBIOL

EXTERNAL SEMINAR



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12:15–13:15



ROOM F200



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Social Evolution in Clownfish

Animal societies in which some individuals forgo their own reproduction and help others to reproduce are a remarkable product of evolution. Such non-breeding and helping strategies are seen in cooperatively breeding birds, mammals, and eusocial insects. These strategies have been of interest to evolutionary biologists ever since Darwin pointed out the difficulties that they posed for his theory of natural selection. We conducted some of the first investigations of non-breeding strategies in marine fishes: the clown anemonefish *Amphiprion percula*, in Papua New Guinea. We demonstrated that non-breeders tolerate their situation because they will inherit territories in the future and there are strong ecological and social constraints. Our work illustrates the importance of understanding future benefits and hidden threats, if we are to understand the cooperative behaviors of individuals in animal societies.