

Churchill SCR Research Seminars

We excitedly bring you a rare chance to learn more about the research here at Churchill college. A selection of seminars from SCR speakers will be hosted in the MCR TV room. The setting is fantastically informal and perfect for intriguing introductions to areas of research outside our own.

Held Wednesday evenings throughout term,
we present to you 3 SCR seminars:

Alecia Carter
Zoology Department
Wed. 5th Feb. - 7:30pm

Monkey see, which monkey do: Does social learning depend on personality in wild baboons?

Social learning can play a critical role in the reproduction and survival of social animals. Individual differences in the propensity for social learning are therefore likely to have important fitness consequences. We asked whether personality might underpin such individual variation in social learning in a wild population of chacma baboons. We used two field experiments performed in which individuals had the opportunity to learn how to solve a task from an experienced conspecific demonstrator. There was evidence that the acquisition of social information was not always correlated with its use, but in both cases was related to personality. These findings present new insights into the costs and benefits of different personality types, and have important implications for the evolution of social learning and cultures in wild animal populations. Despite all the science espoused above, there promises to be a lot of videos of monkeys.

Lucy Blake
**Centre for Family
Research**
Wed. 19th Feb. - 7:30pm

“Daddy ran out of tadpoles”: family communication about sperm donation and egg donation

In families in which children were conceived using donated sperm or eggs, there has been a great deal of debate as to whether it is in the child's best interests to be told about their donor origins. In families in which parents do not do so, children are unaware that the person they think of as their mother or father is not, in fact, their genetic parent. In a number of countries, such as the UK and the US, the culture of donor conception is in transition. Where parents were once advised to tell no one of their use of donated gametes, they are now advised to disclose this information to their children at a young age. In this talk, parents' thoughts and feelings about disclosure will be examined. How do parents go about this task and how do their children respond?

Colm-Cille Caulfield
BP Institute & DAMTP
Wed. 5th Mar. - 7:30pm

Go with the flow: Fluid dynamics in industry and the environment

Fluid flows occur in a vast range of industrial situations. Facing the challenges of modelling, controlling and optimising such flows requires a multi-disciplinary approach, typically integrating experiments, numerical simulations and mathematical modelling. In this talk, I will present some successful case studies where applied mathematicians have made central contributions, as well as discussing some important areas of ongoing research collaboration.

Wine and cheese will follow the talks. We hope to see you there, enjoying the friendly atmosphere and intellectual stimulus.