Where are all the Females?

The effect of resource distribution on mammalian mating strategies

Ellison 5824
12:00 p.m. Tuesday, 14 May 2013

Abstract. Mammalian mating systems vary widely across species, with both females and males either mating with one or with several partners of the opposite sex. During this talk, I will present comparative results that indicate that the spatial distribution of resources has a major influence on the evolution of mammalian mating systems and will argue that females primarily compete over food, while males primarily compete over females. Finally, I will discuss that feedback between the sexes can lead to unstable evolutionary strategies.

Dieter Lukas is interested in the causes and consequences of sociality in animals. In his current work, he is reconstructing the evolutionary history of social and mating systems across all mammalian species. He is a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Cambridge, working in the Large Animal Research Group of Prof. Clutton-Brock. He received his PhD at the Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology, working on population genetics of great apes (well, population genetics of the poo of great apes).

The objectives of the ThinkSpatial brown-bag presentations are to exchange ideas about spatial perspectives in research and teaching, to broaden communication and cooperation across disciplines among faculty and graduate students, and to encourage the sharing of tools and concepts.

Please contact Don Janelle (893-5267, janelle@spatial.ucsb.edu) to review and schedule possible discussion topics or presentations that share your disciplinary interest in spatial thinking.