

DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY SEMINAR

THE ROLE OF SEXUAL CONFLICT IN COPULATION AND GENITAL COEVOLUTION IN VERTEBRATES

DR. PATRICIA BRENNAN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

MT. HOLYOKE COLLEGE

Sexual conflict is expected to be widespread in nature as males and females do not fully share their evolutionary interests. The copulatory arena, due to its evolutionary importance and direct fitness consequences, is rife with evidence of conflict. Dr. Brennan's lab has uncovered several examples of the consequences of sexual conflict in genital evolution and copulatory behavior in several vertebrates that include modifications in functional morphology and physiology. In waterfowl, sexual conflict over forced copulations has led to the evolution of unique functional morphology in male genitalia. This coevolution between males and females that results from an evolutionary arms race as males try to bypass female choice and females resist. Dr. Brennan's lab has discovered similar antagonistic coevolution in snakes and more recently in dolphins. Patricia will describe how her research is helping us better understand sexual conflict and the potential important role of plasticity in genital evolution.

www.pattybrennan.com

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

10:00 AM

ADMISSION

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Accommodations for disabilities may be made by contacting 541-737-2993 or ib@oregonstate.edu.