

# The use of vertebrate model systems to study social evolution

Symposium of the University of Bern, 15-18 August 2009, Adelboden/Switzerland

## Program

**15 August:** Arrival at Adelboden, Hotel Crea (joint dinner at 20:00)

### 16 August:

09:30 – 10:00 Opening and introduction to the symposium

10:00 – 11:00 **Tim Clutton-Brock:** „Structure and function in mammal societies”

11:00 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 12:30 **Jan Komdeur:** „The use of long-term pedigree data to understand the dynamics of adult traits in wild populations”

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 15:00 **Dik Heg:** „The Use of a Cichlid Fish Model to Study Social Evolution”

15:00 – 16:00 Variations in social complexity

15:00 Isabella Scheiber: „Long-term studies on social complexity in an avian model system, the greylag goose (*Anser anser*)”

15:20 Carsten Schradin: “Social flexibility makes the striped mouse a good model to study proximate and ultimate reasons of solitary versus group living”

15:40 Max Ringler: “*Allobates femoralis* (Aromobatidae): a handy fellow for anuran sociobiology”

16:00 – 16:30 Break

16:30 – 17:30 Key factor: social environment

16:30 Sarah Hodge: “Birth synchrony and breeding success in the banded mongoose”

16:50 Ralph Bergmüller: “Evolutionary causes and consequences of individual variation in cooperative behaviour”

17:10 Barbara Taborsky: “Early social environment determines social competence in a cooperatively breeding fish”

17:30 – 18:30 General discussion

19:00 Dinner

**17 August:**

09:00 – 10:00 **Kelly Stiver: „How relatedness informs and influences behaviour of *Neolamprologus pulcher* in the wild”**

10:00 – 11:00 **David Richardson: „Altruism, infidelity and grandparents; cooperative breeding in the Seychelles”**

11:00 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 12:30 Alternative evolutionary mechanisms of sociality

11:30 Ashley Le Vin: “Kin recognition and its effects on cooperation and helping in *Neolamprologus pulcher*”

11:50 Thomas Riebli: “Social facilitation and reciprocity in the cooperatively breeding cichlid *Neolamprologus pulcher*”

12:10 Sander van Doorn: “Generalized reciprocity on social interaction networks”

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 15:00 **Marta Manser: „Coordination and communication in meerkats”**

15:00 – 16:00 Shared information

15:00 Beke Graw: “The function of mobbing in meerkats (*Suricata suricatta*)”

15:20 Markus Zöttl: „Benefits of secondary predator cue inspection and recruitment calling in meerkats”

15:40 Joanna J. Bryson: “Shared Information as an Explanation of Troop-Level Aggregation in Fission-Fusion Species with Varied Party Composition”

16:00 – 16:30 Break

16:30 – 17:30 Key factors: ecology and physiology

16:30 Nadine Klauke: „Ecological factors that limit the extent of cooperative breeding in the El Oro Parakeet (*Pyrrhura orcesi*)”

16:50 F. Péron, L. Nagle & D. Bovet: “African grey parrots: an avian model for social intelligence studies”

17:10 Nicole Bender-Oser: „*Neolamprologus pulcher* as a model system to study hormonal mechanisms of highly advanced social behaviours”

17:30 – 18:30 General discussion

19:00 Dinner

**18 August:** Excursion to the mountains (9:00) and departure