

Solvay Colloquium



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Animals as our eyes and ears in the world

Modern animal ecology is starting to understand and monitor the wealth of information encoded in the behavior of wild animals on a global level. Especially the study of animal movement is entering a golden age because we now have the technology, the big data possibilities and the theoretical underpinnings to provide fundamentally new insight into the bio-treasure of collective life on the planet. I will highlight advances and future directions that allow us to understand the enigmas of: 1) Mechanisms and patterns of selection: Where, when and why an animal dies. Knowing this will answer the ultimate question about selection pressures, and help us advance conservation. 2) Ontogeny: How an individual develops its movements during its lifetime. 3) Environmental constraints: What the external surroundings are upon which an individual decides. 4) Social constraints: How an individual decides based on the decisions of other animals around it and interacting with it. We can and should involve the public in interacting and communicating with animals. Where this is done, often in native cultures, animals are already used as indicators and sentinels for biological and earth processes. Modern observational tools now allow us to interact with animals in unforeseen ways and change our perception about the connectivity of life on the planet. Thus, wild animals will become the seeing-eye dog for humankind.

Tuesday 24 March 2015 at 4.00 P.M.

COFFEE AND TEA WILL BE SERVED AT 3.45 P.M. IN FRONT OF THE SOLVAY ROOM

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