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# Assessing and minimizing risk using dead conspecifics and heterospecifics in the western scrub-jay

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Gould Seminar Room (Room 235) Gould building, 116 Daley Road, ANU



Organisms can minimize their exposure to risk of death or injury by assessing their environment and modifying their behavior accordingly. There is extensive evidence that the current or recent presence of a predator introduces cues to the environment that organisms may use in risk assessment. However, there is far less evidence that terrestrial organisms cue in on the remains of victims of predation and use them as indicators of risk. This work shows that the sight of a dead conspecific and dead heterospecifics is sufficient to induce alarm calling and subsequent risk-reducing behavioral modification in the western scrub-jay, *Aphelocoma californica*.

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