

EVOLUTION, ECOLOGY, & GENETICS RESEARCH SCHOOL OF BIOLOGY

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The lean season lasts all year: effects of forest fragmentation on primate nutrition and health in Madagascar

Primates and other wildlife in tropical countries are increasingly threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation. The most typical way of studying these impacts is by documenting species' extirpations in disturbed habitats. While this yield some insights on why some species may be more susceptible, it often doesn't leave us better equipped to manage populations of those species that persist. I incorporate behavioral ecology, nutrition, and other physiological tools to investigate ecological changes in a lemur species (*Propithecus diadema*) that persists in fragmented and disturbed habitat in Madagascar, with the aims of (1) examining the relationships between nutritional intake, social behaviour and health over small scales, (2) understanding the nutritional geometry of the target species - which macronutrients are prioritized in daily foraging decisions? - and (3) identifying which ecological pressures (i.e. which aspects of forest disturbance) are most relevant to population health and viability, thereby (hopefully) identifying which forces are likely proximate causes of extirpations.

For further info please contact:
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**Seminars are held in the Gould Wing Seminar Room, Building 116 Daley Rd, ANU
ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**