



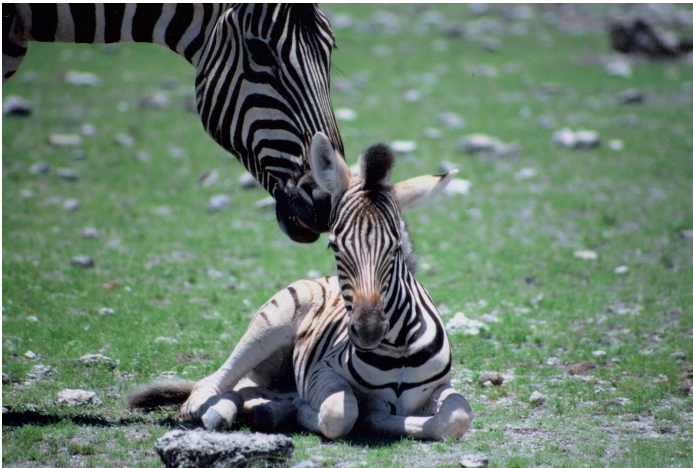
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Buddies and bullies: Harassment and social bonding in equids and other mammals

Thursday 4 October 2012 1pm

Professor Elissa Cameron School of Zoology, University of Tasmania

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



In many social species, females form close bonds with members of their group. These social bonds have been investigated in primates but rarely in other taxa. Primate studies show that reproductive success is increased for females with stronger social bonds, usually with kin. Such bonds may arise through kin selection and inclusive fitness rather than through the direct benefits of association.

In equids, females form long-term social groups with unrelated members. In horses, social integration has strong direct fitness benefits, such that social bonds could evolve based on direct benefits alone. The

nature of these bonds also influences reproductive success, and have cross-generational effects with the foals of more integrated mothers themselves raising foals more successfully. I discuss the implications of these results for our understanding of social relationships, maternal effects and conservation.

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