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What are friends for? Searching for the evolutionary roots of friendships in mammals

Thursday 21 March 2013 1pm

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Gould Seminar Room Gould Building (Bldg. 116), Linnaeus Way, ANU



Friendships are known to affect the health and survival of people, but it is not clear why mammals would have originally evolved the propensity to form strong non-reproductive associations.

I will present research that my group is doing on the patterns and determinants of close associations in female eastern grey kangaroos and giraffes, which do not show complex patterns of cooperation and are thus ideal models to address the initial evolution of friendships. I will discuss work that we are doing to understand the patterns of social relationships in these species and the fitness benefits of strong relationships.

Anne's research has focused on the behavioural ecology and conservation of mammals and birds, with a strong focus on long-term studies on known individuals in wild populations.



Presented by

Research School of
Biology

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& Environment

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This lecture is free and open to the public

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biology.anu.edu.au/News/Events.php

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