Evolution in the Age of Us: Mechanisms of adaptation to a human-modified world

Understanding the proximate (physiological/developmental) and ultimate (evolutionary) mechanisms that drive adaptive responses to human-altered environments is among the most pressing concerns of contemporary organismal biology and conservation. Human modifications to the natural world present extreme and novel environments for many species around the globe, and offer unique opportunities to study the process of evolution in real-time. These instances of anthropogenic evolution provide means for addressing fundamental questions that have proven difficult to address in many traditional systems. A major goal of The Campbell-Staton Group is to understand adaptive modification of complex phenotypes in response to anthropogenic change. In this seminar, Dr. Campbell-Staton will highlight his group's current research on human-mediated evolution - including urbanization, poaching, and environmental contamination.