

The evolution of non-conceptive mating: New insights from studies of wild western gorillas



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*...The **decoupling of sexual behavior** from its **conceptive function** has had an enormous impact on human social relationships, and yet we know little about the **evolutionary significance of non-conceptive mating**...*

*This seminar addresses the function of non-conceptive mating in **wild western gorilla females** by examining **individual variation** in the timing and frequency of **mating during pregnancy**. Results suggest that nonconceptive mating appears to have evolved as a result of **female-female competition** and **not** to confuse paternity or to obtain benefits from the male.*



4:00 PM, Lecture Hall 2
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Evolutionary Studies Seminar Series
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