

Natural resource use: sensing individual behaviour in the Ecuadorian Amazon

Speaker: Sarah Papworth
Department of Biological Sciences, NUS

Chair: Dan Friess, Department of Geography, NUS

Date/Time: Friday, 14 March 2014, 3:30pm – 5:00pm

Place: Earth Lab, AS2-02-03, Department of Geography, NUS

Abstract

Reliance on natural resources is fundamental to all societies, yet understanding natural resource use requires an understanding of both the social and biological environment.

The Waorani are a small group of around 2500 hunter-gather-farmers who live in and around Yasuni National Park, one of the largest protected areas in the Ecuadorian Amazon. I discuss the results of over one year spent in Yasuni National Park, investigating the individual behaviour of both the Waorani and one of their favoured prey species, the woolly monkey. I show the value of mapping the geographical distribution of hunting pressure and demonstrate spatial variation in woolly monkey responses to the presence of humans.

Finally, I critically examine the academic perception that primates are particularly important to the Waorani, and raise questions about the roles of academics and the people they study in setting a research agenda.

About the Speaker




Dr. Sarah Papworth is a Research Fellow in the Department of Biological Sciences at the National University of Singapore. She received her Ph.D. in Conservation Science from Imperial College London.

Her research interests are in human and animal behaviour, particularly when people interact with their environment through resource extraction.

She uses interdisciplinary methodology and theory to quantify behaviour and where possible, applies this to biodiversity conservation.

She has published in various conservation and behaviour journals, and was awarded the 2012 Robert M May prize for her publication in the journal “Methods in Ecology and Evolution”.

ADMISSION IS FREE – ALL ARE WELCOME

CONVENORS: Dr Karen Lai, Dr Sin Harnng Luh and Dr Winston Chow  ENQUIRES: Sakinah – 65163559