

## **Invitation to the Seminar series in Evolutionary Biology**

**Tuesday, 14.01.2024**

**Jun.-Prof. Dr. Jonathan Henshaw**

(Theoretical Biology, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg)

### **Who cares and why? The coevolution of parental care and mating competition**

In the great majority of animals species, females provide most of the parental care, while males compete more strongly for mates. Theoretical work predicts a positive feedback loop acting on these traits, which could help to explain this dominant pattern. Positive feedback can't be the full story, however, because male care and intense female mating competition have evolved multiple times convergently in animals. I will first summarize a comprehensive review of sex-role patterns across the entire animal kingdom. I then explore the logic of coevolution between parental care and mating competition and how it differs according to the mode of fertilisation. I consider the implications for two questions: Under what circumstances should we expect the evolution of male parental care? And what conditions are necessary for sex roles to reverse, with males providing more care than females and females competing more intensely for mates.

Host: Prof. Hanna Kokko

The colloquium usually takes place on Tuesdays at 12:15 pm until approx. 1:15 pm in the BZ 1 lecture hall (HS 00.187). Talks are given in English. Everyone interested is welcome!