

Barn Swallows and Humans: The Rise and Fall of Coexistence in a Changing World

Thursday Speaker



Dr. Rebecca Safran
Professor,
Department of Ecology and
Evolutionary Biology,
University of Colorado

In this lecture, I will highlight our research lab's long-term comparative studies of barn swallows throughout their entire range spanning the northern hemisphere and Middle East. We have integrated data from field experiments using tools from behavior, ecology, endocrinology, evolutionary biology, and genomics to discover how and why populations of barn swallows are rapidly diverging from one another. Along the way, I will celebrate the contributions of many students and collaborators with whom I have had the great honor to work with. Whereas our research has previously focused on the origin of new species, we are now examining the precipitous decline of barn swallows and what this means for the close relationship humans have formed with this bird.

Day: Thursday, April 03

Time: 3:30 PM

Venue: Castetter 100

Effect of social experience on gene expression, circuit function, and behaviors

Friday Speaker



Dr. Pelin Volkan
Associate Professor,
Department of Biological,
Sciences, Duke University

In many animals, social experience alters various behavioral and physiological responses. Notably, chronic social isolation is associated with adverse effects on our mental and physical health. My lab aims to unravel genetic and neural circuit mechanisms mediating the impact of social experience using *Drosophila* as a model system.

Day: Friday, April 04

Time: 3:30 PM

Venue: SMLC 102