
Social networks and animal behavior

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Abstract

Contribution to the interdisciplinary session "Can human sciences be applied to animal societies". Participants: Florent Kohler, Grant Goodrich, Irina Meketa, Colin Allen and Olivia Sultanescu. Abstract: Scientists studying animal sociality have not ignored the growth of "network science". For example, Barocas et al. (2011) argue for a link between centrality in a social network and longevity in hyraxes, and Lea et al. (2010) argue that position in agonistic networks may, counterintuitively, provide heritable fitness benefits to marmots who are the recipients of aggression rather than to those who are initiators of it. To what extent, if at all, does network science move the study of animal sociality simultaneously towards the human sciences and towards the exact sciences?

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