



SEMINAR SERIES / TRINITY 2009

Convenors: Felix Reed-Tsochas, *Institute for Science, Innovation and Society, Saïd Business School*
Eduardo López, *Saïd Business School*

Tuesday 12th May

12.30 – 2.00pm

James Martin Seminar Room, Saïd Business School

Dr. Owen Lewis

Department of Zoology, *University of Oxford*

“Quantitative Foodwebs as Tools for Ecologists”

ABSTRACT

Food webs are networks of feeding interactions among species within ecological communities. Focusing on high-diversity tropical forest ecosystems I will describe empirical studies of bipartite food webs (involving plants, insect herbivores and their parasitoids) that are fully quantified in terms of the abundance of interacting species and the frequency of each interaction. I will present evidence that these 'quantitative food webs' can inform us about (1) the dynamic processes organising biological diversity; (2) the consequences of species extinction or invasion; and (3) the effects of humans on ecosystem organisation, integrity and functioning.

Sandwiches and
drinks will be
provided

For further information
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Our meetings intend to provide a forum for rigorous research (in a broad range of disciplines) focusing on complex adaptive systems, using methods and techniques such as agent-based modelling and complex network analysis. Since potential areas of application for such approaches can be located across the social, natural and engineering sciences, our aim is to involve participants from a wide range of departments in Oxford. We welcome talks which focus on particular areas of application and associated technical issues, but also encourage contributions which address more fundamental conceptual or mathematical problems. The CABDyN Seminar Series is one of the activities of the CABDyN Research Cluster (<http://sbs-xnet.sbs.ox.ac.uk/complexity/>).



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