

SOCIAL EVOLUTION – conference in Hungary, 19-22 April 2018

To celebrate the launch of an ÉLVONAL cutting edge research project on breeding system evolution, we are organising a conference in Hungary 19-22 April 2018. ÉLVONAL is a new funding stream by the Hungarian government to support top science across all disciplines, and our team was one of the 12 winners (see Nature 2017, 551: 425). This will be a 5 year project that will test key hypotheses of breeding system evolution using genomic, immunologic and demographic approaches using shorebirds (plovers, sandpipers and allies) that exhibit an unusual diversity of mating systems and parental care as a model.

The topic of the 1st ÉLVONAL conference is SOCIAL EVOLUTION and we have the following keynote speakers:

Dr Veronika Bókonyi, Hungarian Academy of Sciences: sex determination and sex ratios
Professor John McNamara, University of Bristol: social behaviour and life-history evolution
Prof Eörs Szathmáry, Hungarian Academy of Sciences: social evolution and major transitions
Dr Ferenc Jordán, Hungarian Academy of Sciences: social networks and social interactions
Dr Araxi Urrutia, University of Bath: genomic basis of evolution of social behaviour

The provisional programme is as follows:

Thursday 19 April 2018: Arrival, Welcome reception

Friday 20 April 2018: Full day scientific programme: presentations by senior speakers, and contributions by students and young academics

Saturday 21 April: Full day scientific programme: presentations by senior speakers, and contributions by students and young academics

Sunday 22 April: Bird watching and/or departure

The conference will provide opportunities to discuss results and future plans in a friendly but productive environment. There are opportunities for poster presentation and talks for those academics, postdocs and students interested in presenting their work. Presentation offers from women and minority candidates are especially welcome. Each evening there will be a social event that will include slide shows, round table discussions and/or Hungarian folk dancing.

The event will take place in the Visitor Centre of Hortobágy National Park

<http://www.hnp.hu/hu/szervezeti-egyseg/turizmus/oldal/hnp-latogatokozpont> The Visitor Centre is the hub for the National Park that is a renowned protected area recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hortob%C3%A1gy_National_Park

To make the Conference accessible to students, we have two types of registration:

- (i) 150 EUR – includes accommodation for 3 nights in shared rooms, and breakfast, lunch and dinner for 3 days, and registration
- (ii) 20 EUR – includes only registration.

For more information and registration form please contact workshop2018.hortobagy@gmail.com
Registration deadline is 1 March 2018. We have limited places that will be filled by first-come first-served basis.

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