



of the Euarchontoglires suborder, and all ancestors to lemurs were estimated to have exhibited SSM. This suggests that phylogenetic inertia could explain the occurrence of SSM in the lemurs of Madagascar. However, there is some support for the passive mate-guarding hypothesis or other hypotheses that explain the presence of SSM in lemurs in terms of the maintenance of a phylogenetically constrained trait rather than as the result of unique selective pressures created by Madagascar's ecology.

#### Chimpanzee play areas in the Lebialem-Mone Forest Landscape By Cadell Last



Play has recently been acknowledged as an important aspect of daily chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) life. However, researchers have focused on the behavioural, social, cognitive and evolutionary aspects of chimpanzee play, and relatively little is known about the ecology of chimpanzee play. During a four-week primate field survey

(July-August 2011) within the Bechati forest block of the Lebialem-Mone Forest Landscape (LMFL) of Cameroon data on several chimpanzee (*P. t. ellioti*) nest sites were collected. Relevant data regarding the material composition, organization, distribution, altitude and age were recorded. Arboreal night nests characterized the majority (72% n=13) of nest sites at Bechati. There were two other types of nest sites

#### The effect of female kinship and relatedness on natal attraction and infant handling By Julia Badescu

I examined the effect of female kinship and relatedness on natal attraction and infant handling in wild *Colobus vellerosus*, an egalitarian, female philopatric species. Female kin categories were determined using known pedigree information and pairwise  $r$  values (nDNA genotyping by E. Wikberg). I observed twelve infants from June to November 2010 using ten-minute focal animal sampling, and compared female matrilineal kin versus non-kin behaviors towards the infants. Female kin exhibited more natal attraction than non-kin. Mothers resisted interactions from non-kin subadult females, yet subadult kin handled infants for longer durations. Kin and non-kin subadults handled at similar frequencies. Adult female non-kin infant handled more than kin. Results emphasize the gentle nature of infant handling and the easy-going temperaments of *C. vellerosus* mothers. Infant handling may be a mechanism of female bonding – exchanged between unrelated females of different matrilines in a group, to establish, maintain, and strengthen their social relationships.



#### The evolution of sexual size monomorphism in lemurs: a phylogenetic approach By Erica Tennenhouse

While sexual size dimorphism (SSD) is common among mammals, it is absent in Madagascar's primates – lemurs. Lemurs exhibit a variety of mating systems, some of which would be expected to provide selective pressures leading to the evolution of SSD. Hypotheses to explain sexual size monomorphism (SSM) in lemurs include: the energy conservation hypothesis (ECH), the passive mate-guarding hypothesis, and phylogenetic inertia. Reconstructing ancestral male and female body size on an independently derived molecular phylogeny can help uncover the mechanism by which SSM evolved from a dimorphic ancestor, or expose constraints on body size in extant taxa. A phylogeny of the superorder Euarchontoglires was reconstructed using three nuclear genes and Bayesian methods. There was a high prevalence of SSM among extant and ancestral members

# MEDUSA

## ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT UNION

WELCOME TO THE THIRD AGSU  
2011/12 MEDUSA CONFERENCE

Hosted by Cadell Last and Amber Walker-Bolton

Today's Presenters (in order of presentation)

Julia Badescu

Erica Tennenhouse

Cadell Last

Seth Palmer

Joseph Youssef

Walter Callaghan

### AGENDA

The third Medusa Conference of the 2011/12 academic year is focused on topics in primatology, socio-cultural anthropology and archaeology. Issues relating to infant handling, sexual monomorphism, identity, social memory and hegemony will be discussed



discovered: terrestrial day nest sites (17% n=3) and play areas (11% n=2). Both play areas were organized with terrestrial day nests arranged in a half circle around a worn slope and associated with several play tools (bradishing and dragging tools). These areas were constructed around or near (<50m) anthills and termite mounds. Fishing rods for termite fishing and ant dipping were also discovered. Sites with this material composition, organization and distribution were classified as 'play areas'. It is hypothesized that these play areas were constructed during the daytime with the primary function being play related (i.e. sliding, play tool construction and use and play fighting). Future research is needed to strengthen the claim that these areas were primarily established as play centers. More data should help us to better understand their variation in the LMFL and their function in daily chimpanzee life.

**Prisons and productivity in the pronatalist colony: locating *Sarimbavy* within *Fin-de-siecle* sexological theories**  
By Seth Palmer

This examination of gendered and sexualized alterity in Madagascar analyzes the presence of *sarimbavy*, *sharimbavy*, and *sekatra* in documents written by French colonial medical doctors between 1899 and 1911. These “medico-ethnographic” accounts situated the colonized bodies of *sarimbavy* within contemporary sexological theories, and were insistent upon determining the etiology of *sarimbavy* difference. The interactions between French doctors and *sarimbavy* were undoubtedly colored by emerging criminological theories (as linked to the incarceration of *sarimbavy*), labor policies of the imperial regime (as linked to the refusal of *sarimbavy* to participate in the *corvée* required of male colonial subjects), and French pronatalist ideology (as linked to the failure of *sarimbavy* to procreate). *Sarimbavy* were both situated within, and themselves called into question, explanations of sexual inversion; theorizing the *inverti* in Europe at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup>

was a reciprocal process predicated upon theorizing the racialized, colonized *sarimbavy*, and vice versa. An attention to the political resistance of *sarimbavy* within the archives, and the desire to uncover such resistance, brings this research into dialogue with theoretical insights from queer historiography.



**From the blood of Saint Mina to the martyrs of Magpero: commemorative identity and social memory in the Coptic Orthodox Church**  
By Joseph Youssef



In this paper I discuss the role of commemorating martyrs in the Coptic Orthodox Church and how commemoration is used by Copts as a mode for political and social agency. Furthermore, commemoration is a means by which Copts cope with the rise of sectarian violence in Egypt today. I focus on two ways by which Coptic martyrs are commemorated. The first is through visiting the shrines of martyrs, whose relics are believed by Copts to possess a

certain kind of blessing (*baraka*). The second and more recent kind of commemoration that has emerged in the last three years, takes form in prayer meetings, meant to honour victims of sectarian violence, namely the Martyrs of Nag Hamadi, Alexandria, and Maspero. In both these types of commemoration, narratives and hagiographies of martyrs are (re)articulated and juxtaposed in the present to emphasize the continuity of the Coptic Church as a “Church of Martyrs.” In this way, commemoration is more than an act of remembering; it is an active attempt to make and remake the past in the present.

**Resistance and failed/ing hegemony: a different interpretation of the veteran issue**  
By Walter Callaghan

In defending the continued and growing controversies in how Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) manages the portfolio of benefits granted to veterans, the response of government, regardless of which political party is in power, is full of rhetoric declaring that the policies of that government demonstrate that they “stand behind the troops”. But what does this statement mean when there is seemingly no end to the list of grievances that veterans, especially those disabled in the line of service, are bringing forward in increasing numbers? Can the relationship between veterans and VAC be considered through the lens of a failed/ing attempt by the state to control a distinct population, and that the outspoken response by that population be a form of resistance as a result of the government’s mistaking the differing roles that power and authority play in the creating/sustaining

hegemony, especially in this population group? This paper will examine these issues and present a different interpretation to the causal factors behind the growing conflict between VAC and the veterans who are “daring” to speak out.

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