



UPPSALA
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IEG News

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News from the administration

Reminder of UU:S Wellness challenge - HITTA UT 2020

Hittaut is Uppsala's largest wellness project where you and your colleagues get exercise as you find new places around Uppsala and strengthening the team spirit at your workplace. It's over 160 checkpoints placed at beautiful and interesting sites around Uppsala. Your task is to use the map or your GPS device to find these checkpoints. The map is also available as a mobile app. You register the checkpoints by entering a letter code at the website or in the app.

The more checkpoints you'll find, the more exercise you'll get and the bigger the chance to win prizes (each registration count as an entry to the monthly lottery of prizes).

Our Department of Ecology and Genetics are one team. No matter ambition level, all registered checkpoints counts, and you will contribute to the total number of registered checkpoints in the team.

Register an account at Hitta Ut's

webpage: <https://www.orientering.se/provapaaktiviteter/hittaut/uppsala/>

Be sure to fill in **Organisation:** click **Uppsala Universitet (anställda)**

Then **connect your username to our department** team

at: <https://forms.gle/3xB1sNs1rroPdWFv9>

Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences scholarship

André P. Silva have been awarded a biosciences scholarship from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA) to develop mechanistic simulation models for mammal abundance and distribution in South-Asia. The models are an improvement to the most commonly used correlative species distribution models (SDMs) by taking into account habitat suitability but also population demography and dispersal. At the end they aim to use these models to understand how a variety of spatial conservation strategies such as protected areas will benefit species protection. The project is a collaboration with Juliano Cabral (Würzburg University) and Damaris Zurell (University of Potsdam).

News from the equal opportunities group

Online seminar on “**Strength in Diversity: thinking differently about who gets to work in STEM**” by **Prof. Stephen Curry**

From Faculty of Natural Sciences, Department of Life Sciences – Imperial College London. [Friday 18th September at 3pm \(SE time\) at: meet.google.com/qtz-tsmx-gev](#)

Host: Lynn Kamerlin, Department of Chemistry

Stephen Curry is a well renowned speaker, with a longstanding commitment to promote equality, diversity and inclusion in science. This seminar is open for everybody, and is strongly recommended to scholars and other members of the staff in decision-making positions.



Abstract

Academics are keen on freedom, at least of the academic variety. But according to 20th Century philosopher Isaiah Berlin, the opposition between freedom and equality is an “intrinsic, irremovable element of human life.” Are universities, which have long been extremely hierarchical organisations, therefore destined to be centres of inequality? For many women, that is precisely their experience. The same can be said for many academics who are from ethnic minorities, who are disabled, or who are not heteronormative.

Does this matter for science? What do molecules or the laws of physics care for the machinations of human society? To the extent that science matters for society, society should matter for science. That means that as influential and progressive civic institutions, universities and research institutions must strive to represent the societies they serve and to challenge, rather than to mirror or exacerbate, the structural inequalities that degrade the daily experiences of so many. This is a difficult task, but not one that can be delegated to specialists, however valuable their expertise. It must be embraced by the whole scientific academy. In my talk, I will discuss how we are attempting to tackling inequalities at Imperial College London.

Bio

Professor Stephen Curry holds joint appointments at the College. In October 2017, he was appointed as Assistant Provost for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion to direct the College’s strategy in these important areas for staff and students.

Prof. Curry is also a member of the Department of Life Sciences (DoLS), where he has worked as a structural biologist on a variety of problems related to protein-drug interactions and the replication of RNA viruses such as foot-and-mouth disease virus and human norovirus (the winter vomiting bug). His group has made major contributions to our understanding of drug interactions with human serum albumin and of a range of host-virus protein interactions that are crucial to initiate translation of viral RNA into new virus proteins in infected cells.

Prof Curry’s research and teaching have long been combined with strong interests in the wider role of science in society. He is active in public engagement, having made and presented a number of science videos. He has keen interests in science policy, particularly in R&D funding, in research evaluation (and the use and mis-use of metrics), and in scholarly publication. He writes regularly about science and the scientific life in the Guardian and on his Reciprocal Space blog, and can be found on Twitter as @Stephen_Curry.