



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Psychology

Fall 2020 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

The Psychology Department is pleased to announce:

Introductory remarks by Rebecca Gomez

Dog Diversity as a Natural Experiment in Cognitive Evolution

Evan MacLean, Ph.D.

School of Anthropology, University of Arizona

Friday, October 16, 2020

3:00 p.m. MST

<https://arizona.zoom.us/j/96088133842>

Dogs were once written off as an artificial species with little to contribute to the scientific study of behavior, cognition, or evolution. However, across the last two decades there has been a resurgence of scientific interest in dogs, in fields ranging from cognitive science to genetics and gerontology. I will present a series of studies addressing how dog diversity – considered at multiple levels of analysis – can yield powerful insights into questions about cognitive and behavioral evolution, and the proximate mechanisms underlying phenotypic variance. I will present a longitudinal study investigating the early ontogeny of dog cognition, assessing the stability of individual differences across development, and quantifying genetic contributions to these traits. At the breed level, I will present work assessing the extent to which genetic similarity among breeds predicts variance in cognitive traits, as well as a genome-wide association study of breed differences in cognition.

With questions about access or to request any disability-related accommodations for this talk, please contact Vanessa Noonkester, vnoonkester@email.arizona.edu