

Programme Day Evolution & Behaviour
Tuesday 9th of December 2008
[Academiegebouw, Utrecht](#)

10:00 Coffee

10.15 Opening by programme committee member Prof. Bram Buunk

10:30 Keynote lecture by Dr Margo Wilson and Dr Martin Daly, [Daly-Wilson Lab](#), Department of Psychology, McMaster University, Canada Title: "Future discounting: risk-taking, inequality, and homicide" *People and other organisms "discount the future", weighing imminent costs and benefits more heavily than temporally distant ones. Evolutionary theories of reproductive effort scheduling both explain why such discounting occurs and suggest testable hypotheses about variability in its magnitude. We have tested some of these hypotheses experimentally, finding that discount rates can be altered in predictable ways by contextual variables. We have also studied reckless risk-taking in the real world by analyzing archival data, especially data on homicide, which we interpret as a manifestation of interpersonal competition. Disregard for the future is exacerbated when competitors have little to lose, when the future is uncertain or grim, and when resources are inequitably distributed. Together, these factors do a remarkably good job of accounting for variability in homicide rates.*

12:00 Research project presentation by Andries Richter, MSc "The evolution of social norms for renewable resource exploitation"

12:35 Lunch

Chair Dr Kate Lessells

13:30 Research project presentation by Ineke van der Ham, MSc /Anna Oleksiak, MSc "The Evolution of Spatial Abstraction and Categorization"

14:05 Research project presentation by Nóri Szabo, MSc / Dr Megan Dickens "Bi-parental care: the same game by different rules?"

14:40 Short break

15:00 Research project presentation by Prof. Wout Ultee "The evolution of activist images of god(s) and communality of rites"

15.35 Research project presentation by Prof. Paul van Lange "Generosity and Forgiveness: Their Functional Value in a Noisy World"

16:10 Closing, followed by drinks