

SEEWIESEN

# LECTURE SERIES

FALL/WINTER 2019/2020

Max Planck Institute  
for Ornithology

MAX PLANCK  
GESELLSCHAFT



THURSDAY | January 16th, 2020 | 13.00 | HOUSE 4 LECTURE ROOM

## LÁSZLÓ ZSOLT GARAMSZEGI

Institute of Ecology and Botany, Centre for Ecological Research, Várátót, Hungary | Host: Küpper Research Group

### Females as unsung heroines in the evolution of birdsong

The conventional framework for the study of bird song is that males do the singing and females do the listening. Under this scheme, sex-specific roles in signalling typically involve the advertisement of male quality on one hand, and female choice based on song content on the other. Although many studies proved that male attributes correlate with song performance, the link between superior songs and mating success remains elusive. One potential explanation for the lack of a general applicability of the classical concept is that females' role in the acoustic communication mediating the function and evolution of song is overly simplified therein. Accordingly, using field data from a European passerine species I will demonstrate how female quality can shape the song output of a male via within-individual plasticity and how patterns of assortative/disassortative matings can rearrange rules for female choice. Moreover, relying on comparative data from a large number of species, I will also show how sharpened competition for males can favour advertisement songs in females in an evolutionary time scale.

#### WHO IS LÁSZLÓ ZSOLT GARAMSZEGI?

2002	FWO Post-doctoral Fellowship, University of Antwerp, Belgium
2009	"Ramon y Cajal" Research Fellowship, Estación Biológica de Doñana, Seville, Spain
2012	Associate professor, Estación Biológica de Doñana, Seville, Spain
2019	Director, Institute of Ecology and Botany, Centre for Ecological Research, Várátót, Hungary

#### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Garamszegi LZ, Pavlova DZ, Eens M, Møller AP (2007) The evolution of song in female birds in Europe. *Behavioral Ecology* 18, 86-96.
- Garamszegi LZ, Zagalska-Neubauer M, Canal D, et al. (2018) MHC-mediated sexual selection on birdsong: Generic polymorphism, particular alleles and acoustic signals. *Molecular Ecology* 27, 2620-2633.
- Garamszegi LZ, Zsebők S, Török J (2012) The relationship between syllable repertoire similarity and pairing success in a passerine bird species with complex song. *Journal of Theoretical Biology* 295, 68-76.
- Soma M, Garamszegi LZ (2011) Rethinking birdsong evolution: Meta-analysis of the relationship between song complexity and reproductive success. *Behavioral Ecology* 22, 363-371.
- Zsebők S, Herczeg G, Blázi G, et al. (2017) Short- and long-term repeatability and pseudo-repeatability of bird song: sensitivity of signals to varying environments. *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* 71, 154.

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