

WORKSHOP

SEXY ALPHA MALES OR ATTRACTIVE UNDERDOGS? INVESTIGATING MALE MATING SUCCESS AND SOCIAL STATUS IN TWO GROUPS OF FREE RANGING JAPANESE MACAQUES (*MACACA FUSCATA*)

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ABSTRACT

Like us humans, animals form diverse mating systems shaped by the evolutionary conflict between male and female reproductive interests. In promiscuous primates, males compete for dominance to monopolize females, while females show distinct preferences, also choosing same-sex partners over available males.

This complex interplay of dominance, competition, and female strategy raises questions about which factors are the main drivers for male mating success. Some studies on macaques have demonstrated a clear positive correlation between male social status and mating success. However, other research has found that longer tenure in males can reduce the frequency of male copulation, leading to higher mating and reproductive success among younger, lower-ranking males.

In this multi-day workshop, participants will become part of a collaborative effort and contribute to the long debated research question: does high rank equal higher mating success? This and maybe more questions will be addressed on the example of Japanese macaques (*Macaca fuscata*), a promiscuous primate species living in big multi-female multi-male groups.

After an introduction into the sexual behaviour and mating system of the study species, participants will learn behavioural coding techniques in BORIS. The data will be provided in the form of video recordings of sexual pairs of free-ranging Japanese macaques in Minoo, Japan.