



**University of
Zurich** ^{UZH}

ETH

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

The Ecology, Evolution, Environment & Behavior UZH / ETH Joint Seminar Series

The life history of hunting skill in 40 human societies

Speaker:	Prof. Richard McElreath Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany https://xcelab.net/rm/
Date/Time:	Thursday, 2018-05-03 15:00 to 16:00
Place:	Y15-G-40/UZH Irchel Winterthurerstr. 190; 8057 Zürich
Access:	only intern
Host:	Hanna Kokko, UZH

Abstract:

Human adaptation depends upon the integration of slow life history, complex production skills, and extensive sociality. We pursue this integration by inferring individual rates of skill gain and loss from 23,000 hunting records generated by 1800 individuals at 40 communities. The analysis reveals an average age of peak productivity around 30 years of age, but with substantial individual and site variation. Variation among individuals depends more upon variation in rates of decline with age than variation in rates of increase. This analysis sharpens questions about the co-evolution of human life history and cultural adaptation, clarifying needs for future empirical research. It also demonstrates the potential for new statistical algorithms to allow for successfully marrying substantive models of human behavior with data collected in the field.

last update: 2021-05-21