



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



Mardi 29 mars 2016, 11:00

Grande salle de réunion

**TIPPING THE SCALES.
OTHER LESSONS IN ADAPTIVE EVOLUTION FROM THE
THREESPINE STICKLEBACK.**

par

Scott McCairns, postdoc, Université d'Helsinki

- 📌 The threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) has emerged as an important model for the study of adaptive evolution. Perhaps the species' biggest – or at least most recent – claim to fame stems from evidence of parallel evolution of its defensive structures associated with the colonization of freshwater habitats throughout its global distribution. However, there is more to this little fish than what lurks below the surface.
- 📌 In this talk, I will give a brief overview of some the 'atypical' questions being addressed through use of the stickleback model, presenting data and ideas from my two most recent projects. The first explores what adaptive variation might be found within the transcriptome. The second returns to the question of defensive armouring in a system that does not fit the typical story of freshwater colonization.
- 📌 Though this work is still ongoing, I believe it an instructive reminder of the roles of convergence, contingency and correlated selection.