



## Colloquium

# The Institute Colloquium: Life-time commitment and the evolution of altruism and mutu

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Host:

Major transitions in evolution shift selection to a higher level. Some require high relatedness (multicellularity, eusociality) and some do not (obligate mutualisms, sexual partnership). I will argue that strict, life-time commitment between partners (gametes, parents, somatic cells, and families) appears to be a very general requirement for realizing major transitions. It captures high offspring relatedness following sexual partner choice and it produces analogous alignments of reproductive interests when mutualistic partner choice is supra-sexual. Life-time commitment is very difficult to achieve in nature, but all eukaryote life is somehow based on it. As it seems, life-time commitment does not remove all reproductive conflict, but enough of it to allow lineages to diversity and become ecologically successful. Fungus-farming ants and termites have proven to be good models for studying questions of partner commitment and will continue to offer rich opportunities now that sequenced genomes are becoming available.

**Monday, January 23, 2012 04:30pm - 05:30pm**  
Raiffeisen Lecture Hall, Central Building



This invitation is valid as a ticket for the ISTA Shuttle from and to Heiligenstadt Station. Please find a schedule of the ISTA Shuttle on our webpage: <https://ista.ac.at/en/campus/how-to-get-here/> The ISTA Shuttle bus is marked ISTA Shuttle (#142) and has the Institute Logo printed on the side.