



**Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**  
**Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research**  
The Swiss Institute for Dryland Environmental and Energy Research  
**Mitrani Department of Desert Ecology**

Special seminar



**Hazel Nichols and Kevin Arbuckle**

Swansea University



**Wednesday, January 9, 2019, 12:00**

**Room #32, Biology Building**



**Cobras, Cuckoos and Cooperative Breeders:  
a trilogy of talks on behaviour and evolution**

This jointly delivered seminar will present three case studies from our research in evolutionary behavioural ecology to introduce the range of questions and study systems we work on, using examples chosen to stimulate varied and (hopefully!) interesting discussion. First, the coevolution of venom and the infamous defensive displays of cobras, including the ability of some to 'spit'. Second, the evolutionary history and biogeography of brood parasitism in cuckoos. Finally, behavioural ecology of scent as a cue of reproductive status in cooperatively breeding mongooses. Together, these talks will highlight the power of experimental work in wild populations and broad-scale (phylogenetic) comparative approaches to revealing new insights into the behavioural ecology and evolution of animals.