



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research

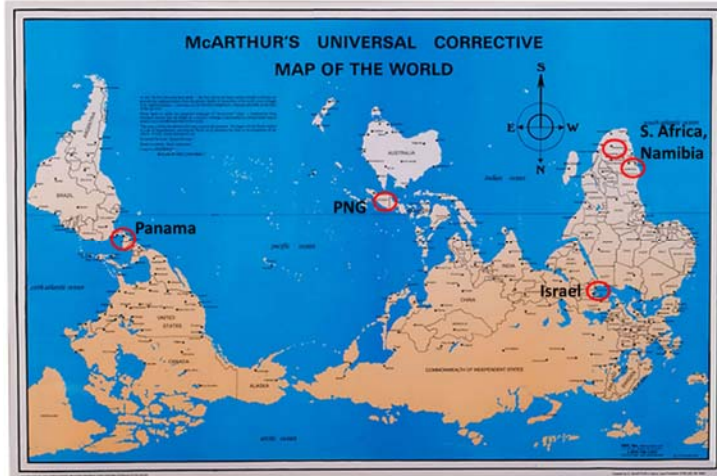
The Swiss Institute for Dryland Environmental and Energy Research

Mitrani Department of Desert Ecology

Seminar

Yael Lubin

MDDE



Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 12:00

Seminar Room, Old Administration Building

Chasing Social Spiders Across Three Continents

"Evolutionary biologists already have an abundance of answers from which to pick and choose. What they most need are the right questions.... They look for the best stories that Nature has to tell us... they go to the field with open eyes and minds, complete opportunists looking in all directions for the big question...."

E. O. Wilson (1994) *Naturalist*.

I did not yet have an idea for a PhD when I was offered the opportunity to spend two years as a research assistant on an expedition to Papua New Guinea. However, a first encounter with colonies of up to thousands of spiders led to both a PhD and a recurrent research theme: how can we explain the evolution and persistence of group living in these predatory and cannibalistic animals? I provide 'snapshots' of some of my quests for answers to this question.