

## LIVING WORLD LECTURE



FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

**7:30PM ESS 001**

ASST. PROF. PASCAL TITLE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY & EVOLUTION

### **The reptile diversity of Australia: How are there so many species?**

Abstract: Australia is home to an astonishing level of reptile diversity, and is a true global biodiversity hotspot. Most species of lizards and snakes belong to twelve independent radiations that have occurred on the Australian continent, providing a unique setup for exploring how and why species radiations occur, and what factors might lead to greater or fewer species. I will showcase this reptile diversity, and explore why so many species have accumulated for certain groups, but not for others.

Bio: Prof. Title is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Ecology & Evolution at Stony Brook University in New York. He earned his PhD at the University of Michigan and the Museum of Zoology, and his Master's at San Diego State University. He was also a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the Environmental Resilience Institute at Indiana University. By combining species occurrences and environmental spatial data with macroevolutionary and macroecological approaches, Prof. Title explores how biodiversity patterns are structured along geographic and environmental gradients, and how historical contingency has generated the patterns we observe today.