

2024 UNM Research & Discovery Week Keynote Speaker

Energy & Time: Metabolic Evolution in Humans & other Primates

Dr. Herman Pontzer (Duke University)

Energy is the common currency for all life, but the strategies used to acquire energy and allocate it among competing tasks can change over different timescales, from ontogeny to evolution. In this talk, I examine the energy budgets of humans and other primates over the life course and through deep time. As we will see, energy budgets expand and contract over evolutionary timescales, but the ecological pressures on metabolic rate are not always clear. Within species, energy budgets are constrained, with increasing demands for physical activity incurring trade-offs on other tasks. I discuss these findings and their implications for understanding the primate ecology, health, life history, and evolution.



Friday, November 8th

Reception: Maxwell Museum @ 4:30 PM

Presentation: PAÍS Room 1100 @ 6 PM



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