



BOLD MICE AND ANXIOUS SQUIRRELS HOW THE PERSONALITY OF A SMALL MAMMAL CAN CHANGE A WHOLE ECOSYSTEM

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Sala Conferenze exOspedaleMilitare

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Within a species some individuals tend to be shier, some bolder and some more aggressive. This individuality in their behavior is known as 'personality' and is the result of natural selection, since it is partly written in an individuals' genetic code and partly the result of early-life experiences. In this presentation I will discuss the results of 8 years of field research conducted with my students in Maine (USA), which allowed us to demonstrate that the personality of small mammals (mice, squirrels and voles) can have cascade consequences on the functioning of whole ecosystems.

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