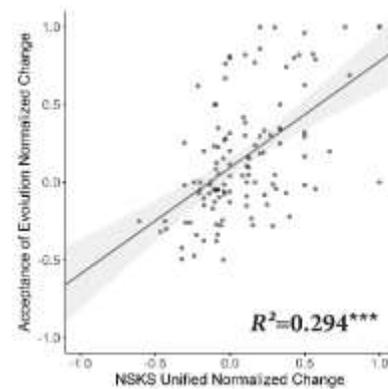
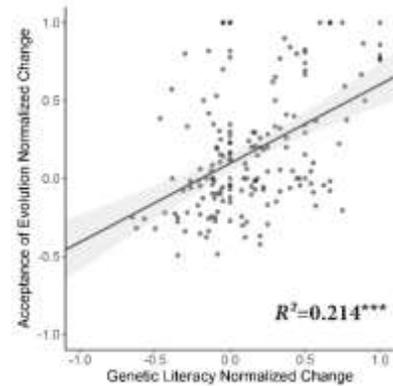


Investigating the Relationship of Evolution Acceptance to Knowledge, Attitudes, and Demographic Factors

The ubiquity of evolutionary theory in biology makes it nearly impossible to fully understand or engage in biological investigation without a thorough understanding of evolution. Thus, full participation in biology is hindered by a failure to accept evolutionary biology. Previous work has shown that acceptance of evolution is related to a number of educational, psychological, and sociodemographic variables. In this talk I will describe how my work has helped to shape these into a single working model of the factors that influence acceptance of evolution, including investigating the role of such factors in a longitudinal time frame. Pre and post surveys were compared using normalized change, and multivariate ANCOVA models were generated for the pre-course and post-course data. Interestingly, many of the variables that showed a reduced association with acceptance of evolution over the year were demographic factors and were replaced by variables that are tied to education. Religiosity, understanding the nature of science, and evolutionary knowledge were significantly associated with evolution acceptance in both models, and an increase in understanding both biology and the nature of science were related to an increase in acceptance of evolution. This work helps to form a baseline that will allow further research to explore the similarities and differences between different groups in acceptance of evolution. Additionally, this research has direct potential applications to curriculum development.



Ryan Dunk, Ph.D. candidate

Syracuse University

Friday, March 15, 2019

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Science 2, room 109

For further information: www.csufresno.edu/biology

Bio: Mr. Ryan Dunk is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Syracuse University. He earned his B.S. and M.S. in Biological Sciences from University of Wisconsin. He is working in Dr. Jason Wiles's lab conducting education research in the Life and Earth Sciences, with special attention to teaching and learning about biological evolution; increasing diversity among students and professionals in STEM fields; science education at all academic levels.

If you need a disability-related accommodation or wheelchair access, please contact Lindasue Garner at the Department of Biology at 278-2001 or e-mail lgarner@csufresno.edu (at least one week prior to event).