# Scientist Spotlight:

# Swanne Gordon

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To help us prepare for what we are about to study in our class, we are going to explore the work of Swanne Gordon. Dr. Gordon is an evolutionary biologist and behavioral ecologist. Her work stems around asking the questions of why there is diversity in nature and how it is maintained. In particular, she focuses on the evolution and maintenance of color polymorphisms in warning coloration, rapid evolution, and the interaction between sex linkage and adaptation. Dr. Gordon received a MSc in Biology from McGill University in Montreal and a PhD in Biology from the University of California at Riverside. She did her postdoctoral work at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland and is currently an Assistant Professor at Washington University in St. Louis.

**Click the link to learn more about the background of Swanne Gordon:**

<https://biology.wustl.edu/news/faculty-spotlight-swanne-gordon-assistant-professor-biology>

**Click the links to learn about the scientific work of Swanne Gordon:**

https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\_releases/2009-06/uocp-wei060209.php

https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/599300

**Instructions for Written Assignment:**   
After reviewing the background and scientific work of Swanne Gordon, write a reflection on what you discovered. You might wish to address some of the following:

1. *What was most interesting to you in reviewing these resources?*
2. *What did you learn from these resources about rapid evolution?*
3. *What new questions do you have after reviewing these resources?*
4. ***What do these resources tell you about the types of people that do science?***

**About the Author:** My name is Ximena E Bernal. I am Associate Professor at Purdue University and Research Associate at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. I am a behavioral ecologist interested in particular in animal communication and understanding the ecology and evolution of interspecific eavesdropping behavior.



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