



NIMBioS

National Institute for Mathematical
and Biological Synthesis

“Game experiments on cooperation through punishment and/or reward”

**Dr. Ross Cressman
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**Tuesday, September 28, 2010
3:30 p.m.*, Room 403, Blount Hall, 1534 White Ave.**

Join NIMBioS for a seminar discussing the effects of punishment and reward schemes on cooperative behavior among players in Prisoner’s Dilemma (PD) and Public Goods (PGG) games. Both games fall under Game Theory, a branch of mathematics that attempts to capture behavior in strategic situations (games) where an individual’s success depends on the choices of others. PD is a two-person game where both players are given the option of cooperating, defecting, or punishing their opponent at a cost to themselves (costly punishment). PGG is a four-person game where an outside agency rewards, punishes, or both rewards and punishes players based on their contributions to the public good. Dr. Cressman studied a group of university students in Beijing participating in both PD and PGG to investigate whether cooperative behavior in humans increases when there are punishment and/or reward options. He will be sharing his results at the seminar.

**Join us for refreshments in the NIMBioS Lobby on the 4th floor at 3 p.m.*