

**Short-term Visit Report: Tim Currie (Centre for Ecology & Conservation,  
Department of Biosciences, University of Exeter, Penryn campus)**

Dates: Oct. 11-17, 2015

The purpose of the visit to NIMBioS was develop the next stage of our project that is testing hypotheses about the cultural evolution of complex societies. T.C. gave a talk to S.G.'s research group presenting the results of statistical analyses examining alternative hypotheses about the emergence and spread of the largest-scale societies in human history. The talk generated a lot of useful debate and feedback. During the visit we identified additional hypotheses and extra analyses that could be conducted, and made a start on these analyses. A first-draft of a paper has now been written and will be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal in the coming weeks. We also discussed extending this work using agent-based models, and included this in a grant proposal written by T.C., which was submitted after the visit in November.

Meeting participants: Thomas Currie (Centre for Ecology & Conservation, Department of Biosciences, University of Exeter, Penryn campus) & Sergey Gavrilets (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology & Mathematics, University of Tennessee & NIMBioS).