

cordially invite you to a

DySoC/NIMBioS Interdisciplinary Seminar

with

Dr. Damian Ruck

on

“Cultural prerequisites for democracy and economic development”

Monday, September 24, 2018

3:30-5 p.m.

Reception & refreshments at 3 p.m.

Hallam Auditorium, Room 206
1122 Volunteer Boulevard



Dr. Damian Ruck is a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Alex Bentley in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Tennessee. He earned a PhD at the University of Bristol in the Bristol Center for Complexity Sciences, funded by the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. His research focuses on modeling the dynamics of global cultural values and their role in human development using advanced computational and statistical methods.

Abstract: The World Values Survey (WVS) quantifies the cultural values of 109 nations that represent 95 percent of the world's population on all six inhabited continents. Using unsupervised statistical methods, we present two orthogonal cultural components (Openness and Secular-Rationality) that underlie these data. Using a multilevel time series model, we show that Openness and Secular-Rationality must generally be infused into the population of a country before it becomes economically developed. Moreover, these cultural values not only also predict future levels of democracy, but also predict future democratic stability.