



217th Lecture Series 7.30pm - 9 January 2019

Professor Mike Bruford

Why genetic biodiversity matters and how we can best conserve it for future generations.



ABSTRACT

This talk will focus on the importance of genetic variation as one of the three pillars of biodiversity and its role in the maintenance of resilience and viability in the world's ecosystems, with special emphasis on endangered species. Mike will then explore how it is currently managed and governed at a global level, where the problems and gaps are, and how these need to be addressed if we are to conserve genetic diversity into the future. Mike will include a few examples from his own work and others (eg on Africa's rhinos) and will address at least one local/topical example (the Scottish wildcat). He will emphasise the need for greater education and awareness among the public, wildlife managers and policy makers if we are to ensure this neglected element of biodiversity (compared to species and ecosystems) is properly valued and included in the future conservation landscape.

BIOGRAPHY

I did my PhD at the University of Leicester on the development of DNA fingerprinting techniques in birds and genome mapping in chickens using minisatellite DNA markers between 1986 and 1990. Between 1990 and 1999 I worked as a postdoctoral research associate, research fellow and then Head of Conservation Genetics at the Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London. I joined Cardiff University in 1999 and led the Organisms and Environment Division between 2010 and 2015. I am currently a co-Director of the University's Sustainable Places Research Institute, where I am involved in a variety of projects linking natural and social sciences in place-based sustainability research.

LINKS

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/81128-bruford-mike>

<https://www.frozenark.org/>

**All lectures take place in Lecture Theatre K3.25, John Anderson Building,
University of Strathclyde, Rottenrow East, Glasgow G4 0NG.**

Non-members welcome

The John Anderson Building is in the pedestrianised area between Rottenrow and Rottenrow East. Free car parking is available behind the building. From High Street enter Rottenrow East at the Barony.
Refreshments will be served at 9.00pm.