

Meg Crofoot:

“Collective dynamics of sleeping in groups”

Whether social or solitary, all animals sleep. Although the ultimate function of sleep remains hotly contested, its importance is universally acknowledged: insufficient sleep negatively impacts health, cognition and social functioning and, in extreme cases, can lead to death. The decisions animals make about when, where and how to sleep are, therefore, important, and likely have sizable—although still poorly understood—fitness consequences. When individuals sleep together, the choices they make and the tradeoffs they face are fundamentally shaped by the behavior of their group-mates and the collective dynamics that emerge from sleeping in groups. To shed light on how the social environment both shapes, and is shaped by sleep patterns in the wild, we are using thermal videography, GPS tracking and tri-axial accelerometry to track the day-time and night-time behavior of a population of wild olive baboons (*Papio anubis*) in Laikipia, Kenya. Early results from this project demonstrate not only that the social context influences the sleep patterns of wild animals, but that sleep dynamics have consequential effects on the social landscape that extend far beyond the sleep period.