

Tuesday Talks

PRESENTS

Dr. James Thomka

Center for Earth and Environmental Sciences Department

Speaking on

“Fossil parasites of ancient echinoderms: An evolutionary story”

In spite of the historic emphasis on competition, antagonistic biotic interactions are increasingly recognized as major drivers of long-term and large-scale evolutionary trends. Predator-prey relationships over evolutionary timescales have been extensively studied, but an equally important form of antagonistic interaction--that involving parasites and hosts--remains more poorly understood, primarily because of limitations imposed by biases in the fossil record. Fortunately, stalked echinoderms (pelmatozoans) are characterized by a rare combination of properties that make them ideally suited for study of the effects of host-selective parasitic infestation over deep (i.e., evolutionarily significant) timescales. This presentation focuses on the two most common manifestations of parasitism in pelmatozoan echinoderm hosts: development of swollen pit structures and encrustation by platyceratid gastropods. Morphological, ecological, and other effects driven by parasitism of host lineages are highlighted in the context of evolutionary change.

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 from 4:30pm-6pm

Alumni Conference Room and via Zoom:

<https://plattsburgh.zoom.us/j/93057799954>

Meeting ID: 930 5779 9954

Dial in: +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

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If you wish to be a speaker on this lecturer series, please contact Kristin Short (School of Arts & Sciences), ext. 3150