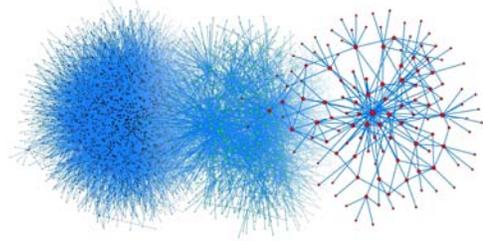




THE JAMES MARTIN
21ST CENTURY SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

21ST CENTURY SCHOOL
SEMINAR SERIES

"COMPLEXITY AND SYSTEMIC RISK"



THURSDAY 11 MARCH 2010, 3.30-5PM

Dr Owen Petchey

Royal Society University Research Fellow, Department of Animal and Plant Sciences, University of Sheffield

"Contagious Extinctions and Ecosystem Collapse"

Summary: Extinctions lead to loss of biodiversity and can compromise ecosystems. Many theories about extinction represent species as independent entities, whereas in reality they are linked together by a complex network of interactions. These links create the possibility for extinctions to spread through ecosystems, with consequences for both the extent and trajectory of system collapse. The results of experimental and theoretical studies will be used to illustrate some of these consequences, including accelerated system collapse via positive feedbacks among extinctions, and 'super-stochastic' extinction trajectories.

*The seminar takes place in the Old Indian Institute Building
(corner of Holywell and Catte Streets).*

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