

Lunch seminar Monday 18 March 2019:

Jakub Dan Zarsky: **Cold origin of land plants**

Algae became terrestrial many times in their evolution. It happened just once that one of these transitions irreversibly altered the global ecosystem and gave rise to a group of organisms playing a key role in most of the habitats on the surface of the continents today - the terrestrial plants.

Recent large-scale analyses of molecular data give us a quite surprising picture of algal phylogeny and timing of its branching. Old questions can be asked in a new light: How to deal with extinct floras that are partly or totally missing in our picture? What key adaptations had to emerge and when? And how is this history linked to the life on recent glacial surfaces, one of the few environments where land plants are typically absent?

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