

# EVOLUTIONARY BIOGEOGRAPHY & CONSERVATION ON A RAPIDLY CHANGING PLANET

*Professor Craig Moritz*

*Craig Moritz is director of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and professor in the Department of Integrative Biology. He is an evolutionary biologist with interests spanning historical biogeography, speciation, molecular ecology and systematics, as well as application of concepts from these fields to conservation. Major studies over the past 20 or so years have included analyses of chromosomal speciation in gecko lizards, evolutionary origins and consequences of parthenogenesis in reptiles, historical biography of a rainforest fauna, and conservation genetics of a variety of organisms.*



**1-2 PM TUESDAY 31 AUGUST 2010**

**Venue:** The Robertson Lecture Theatre  
R.N. Robertson Building (no. 46)  
Research School of Biology

**Speaker:** Professor Craig Moritz  
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and Department  
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Evolutionary biogeography seeks to uncover patterns of biological diversity and to understand how evolution, in response to environmental change in time and space, has generated these patterns.

Given rapid global change due to human activities, it is both relevant and urgent to combine evolutionary principles with environmental data to predict hotspots of endemism – biologically unique areas – and to understand how they developed and persisted through periods of past climate change.

In this talk, Professor Moritz will outline some general principles and illustrate their application, focusing on case studies in tropical rainforests of Australia and Brazil. The results suggest new approaches, combining spatial modeling and molecular phylogeography, with potential to improve biodiversity prediction and conservation planning in as yet poorly understood, biodiverse regions of the planet.