



Einladung

zu dem am Donnerstag, dem 15. April 2021, ab 14 Uhr
als Zoom-Videokonferenz

stattfindenden öffentlichen

wissenschaftlichen Habilitationsvortrag

Institut für Zoologie

(Fach: Zoologie)

von

Dr. Tom Weihmann

über das Thema

**European ice age, food webs and rise and fall of the mega
fauna**

The amount of animal biomass a certain habitat can bear is typically determined by the habitat's primary production. Usually, primary production of terrestrial habitats depends largely on plant growth. However, the different herbivores consuming the plants differ in their ability to exploit plant resources. They differ in terms of food acquisition, ingestion as well as digestion. Scaling effects apply to all three aspects of the animals' nutritional ecology. The available herbivore classes then also determine the size and biomass of the predators. All three, plant growth, herbivores, and carnivores influence each other reciprocally. In the long term, this interplay can approach a sometimes fragile state of equilibrium. The rise and fall of the European megafauna nicely shows such a balanced system and how it eventually goes off the rail. This example shall be used here to elaborate and illustrate the processes at play and to point out some possible reasons for the extinction of the once rich animal community.

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