

Proposal to host **2011 IEC meeting** in  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
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This is an initial proposal to host a joint meeting of the annual meeting of the **International Ethnological Conference (IEC)** with the **Animal Behavior Society (ABS)** in 2011. We would like to encourage synergism and avoid competition between the two groups by combining the best of both into a 5-day conference in August 2011. The disciplinary differences between the two conferences are small, and we believe that a joint meeting presents an unprecedented opportunity to highlight a broad spectrum of animal behavior research.

Hosting a joint meeting also poses unique challenges. The two meetings differ in their traditions of meeting duration (IEC:7 days, ABS:4 days) and in the balance between plenary and contributed sessions. Whereas ABS traditionally controls the details of the scientific program through the Program Officers, the IEC program is created by a scientific organizing committee composed of local hosts. Also, ABS typically subsidizes the cost of the meeting by covering expenses for plenary speakers and symposia, as well as providing staff support through the ABS Central Office. In contrast, the IEC passes the full cost of the meetings to the participants. Finally, the meeting rooms needed to accommodate a group of 800-1000 people are substantially more expensive than those available for groups of half that size. Nevertheless, we believe we have come up with a balance between the two meetings that offers an exciting opportunity for members of both groups.

**About Indiana University, Bloomington**

Indiana University (IU) is home to one of the largest groups of animal behavior researchers and educators in the country. Our behavior group is scattered across academic departments, and is hence coordinated through our Center for the Integrative Study of Animal Behavior (CISAB, <http://www.indiana.edu/~animal/>), which would serve as primary host for the meetings. We are excited about hosting a meeting that would bring so many of our colleagues to our campus.

The IU Bloomington campus is in the center of town and in the middle of Indiana, a state in the center also of the United States. Participants from all over the world can easily reach the Indianapolis International Airport via any major US airline. From the airport, it is a short 40-min shuttle to our campus. IU Conferences and CISAB have hosted large meetings in the past, including the 2002 ABS meeting. We can easily manage a meeting of 1000 participants.

IU Bloomington is an attractive campus that blends traditional and modern architecture within a forested, park-like environment. It is safe, beautiful and negotiable. Although Bloomington is a relatively small town (about 60,000 inhabitants, many of whom are students), it offers the sophistication of a cultural capital. There are many small restaurants featuring ethnic foods from around the world (e.g., Tibetan, Afghani, Turkish, Korean, Japanese, Italian, and Indian), and during the summer, our music school (counted among the top three in the country) offers international-caliber performances in opera, theater, music and dance on a daily basis.

We envision the meeting and plenary sessions being focused around the IU Auditorium, a beautiful, well-equipped, room which seats up to 3200 people and will be sub-divided to suit our needs. Other concurrent sessions will be held primarily in 3 large classrooms (245-443 people each) in nearby buildings, or in smaller classrooms, as needed. All of our larger classrooms are fully-equipped with modern projection equipment. We will also make use of the Indiana Memorial Union, which is a 5-min walk from this central meeting area. Our union is one of the largest in the world and contains a full-service hotel (100 rooms), restaurants, a bookstore, and other large meeting rooms (we hosted the 2002 ABS meetings almost entirely in the IMU). Meeting participants will also be housed in the inexpensive IU residence halls (a 5-10 min walk). Downtown Bloomington with an abundance of restaurants and other hotel options is a pleasant 10-15-min walk away. You can learn more about IU on-line: <http://www.iub.edu>.

### **Scientific Program**

The theme for our proposed joint meeting is “Integrative Animal Behavior”, and our aim is to highlight cutting-edge ethological research that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries as described by Niko Tinbergen in his classic 1963 paper. As is typical for an IEC, we would form a local scientific committee in charge of the program schedule. As is typical for an ABS meeting, our local scientific committee would work closely with the ABS Program Officer and Executive Committee on all details of the scientific program.

Our tentative schedule adds one day to the typical ABS meeting to strike a balance between IEC and ABS traditions in terms of plenary lectures and symposia vs. contributed talks. By adding one day, we can hold twice as many plenary lectures (2/day) and symposia as is typical for ABS, while still leaving plenty of room for contributed sessions and posters. As usual, the meeting will begin with an opening reception (on Friday), and end with a closing banquet on Wednesday evening. Saturday to Wednesday would be regular meeting days packed with plenary lectures and concurrent sessions. Posters are highlighted during breaks and evenings.

#### **Typical Meeting Day**

9:00 am	Plenary Lecture
10:00 am	Coffee break
10:30 am	Plenary Lecture
11:30 am	Poster viewing & Lunch
1:30 pm	Symposia (2) and contributed sessions (2)
3:30 pm	Coffee break
4:00 pm	Symposia (2) and contributed sessions (2)
6:00 pm	Dinner
7-10 pm	Poster Session and/or Reception

### **Meeting Budget**

Working with IU Conference Services, we have developed a detailed budget based on 800-1000 participants and found that we can host a meeting with registration fees roughly \$400 for regular participants and \$200 students and members of developing nations). This would be intermediate between typical ABS (\$200 full/\$100 student) and IEC meetings (\$600-800).