Ecometrics: predictive modeling over evolutionary times

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Wednesday, April 4, 2018
16:00, Didžioji instituto auditorija 214 a, M.K. Čiurlionio 21/27

A major focus in evolutionary biology is to understand how the evolution of organisms relates to changes in their physical environment. In the terrestrial realm, the interrelationships among climate, vegetation, and herbivores lie at the heart of this question. This talk is about ecometrics, which is a methodology for quantifying functional relationships between faunal communities and their environments. Ecometrics combines computational modeling using statistical and machine learning methods with understanding of the global fossil record and faunal communities over evolutionary time scales. This computational methodology can be used for analyzing evolutionary contexts, global scale relationships between animals, their environments, reconstructing past climates and environmental change.

Indrė Žliobaitė received a PhD in Informatics from Vilnius University in 2010. Currently she is an Assistant Professor at the University of Helsinki, Finland where she leads a research group 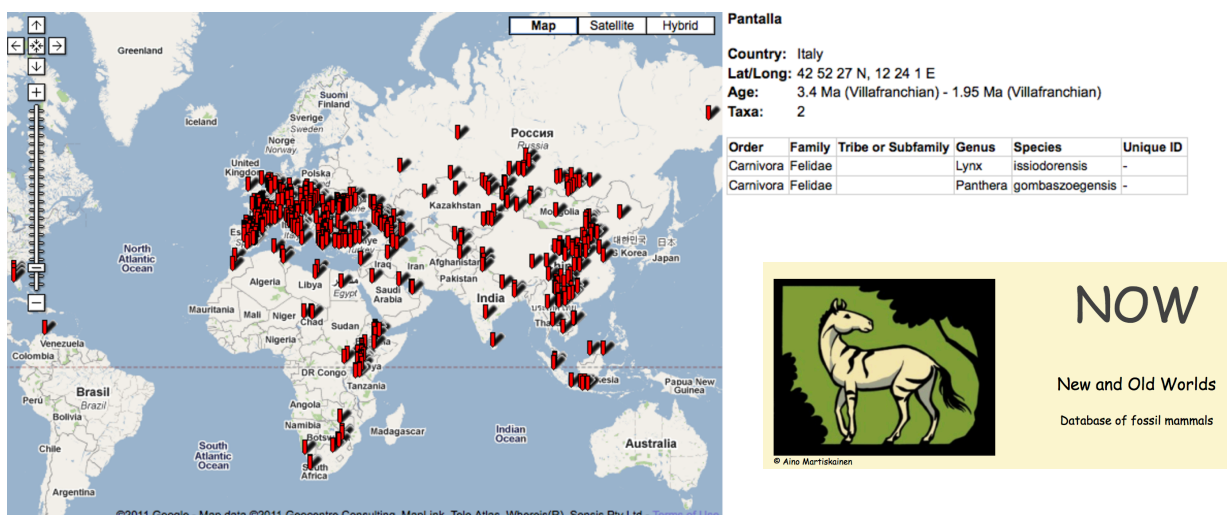on Data science and evolution. More information: https://www.helsinki.fi/en/researchgroups/data-science-and-evolution