**More than kin and less than kind: preferences and consequences of consanguineous matings**

**Emily Martin**, **Tristan Long**, Wilfrid Laurier University

Females will often encounter different males of varying degrees of relation from which to pick a mate. It has generally suggested that mating with siblings or other close relatives is to be avoided in order to escape the potentially deleterious consequences of inbreeding depression. However, a number of recent studies have reported that in Drosophila melanogaster (a model organism for sexual selection), females are either indifferent to the degree of relation to their mate, or may even prefer closely related males. Motivated by these results, I have set out to independently test this phenomenon, and to examine further, expanding into the fitness consequences of incestuous matings, as this has not been done in the aforementioned studies. Using a series of assays to measure pre- and post-copulatory facets of *D. melanogaster* mating I set out to determine if mate choice outcomes are influenced by relatedness or potential familiarity due to a common developmental environment, and whether these results differ depending on potential intra-specific completion (so called choice or no-choice environments).