

Please read this document carefully before you start! Your homework submission should be *at least* 250 words total, addressing the questions at the bottom of the page.

Scientist Spotlight: **Dr. Danielle Lee**

Dr. Danielle Lee is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Her research primarily focuses on the interactions between ecology, evolution and how they correlate to animal behavior. Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. Lee came to the St. Louis area for graduate school and earned her doctorate at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She is now a proud resident of the SIUE community, where she teaches courses on mammalogy and urban ecology. Her research specifically focuses on rodent behavior, such as the behavioral differences between urban and rural environments and the role of female biology in rodent behavior.



In addition to her novel research in animal behavior, Dr. Lee is a strong advocate for women and people of color in STEM. She has acclaimed a multitude of awards for her efforts, including the White House Champions of Change in STEM Access and Diversity and National Geographic's Emerging Explorers. Dr. Lee centers her work through science communication and outreach, where she is able to engage the public in her research and advocacy. This includes TV specials, TED Talks, and award-winning science blogs ([The Urban Scientist](#)).



Watch Dr. Lee's TED Talk to learn more about animal behavior and how we can incorporate Hip-hop into science communication:
[How hip-hop helps us understand science](#)

Watch Dr. Lee's National Geographic talk to learn more about her research on rodent behavior:
[Rodent Roommates | Explorers in the Field](#)

Instructions for Written Assignment:

After reviewing these resources, write a 250 word or more reflection with your responses TO BE SUBMITTED TO Blackboard, which addresses ideas related to the following questions:

- 1) What was most interesting to you in reviewing these resources?**
There were multiple interesting facts in the resources that were provided. In Dr. Lee's TED talk video "How Hip-hop Helps Us Understand Science" she discusses a challenge for scientists, "defining monogamy". Instead of recommending a book or writing notes, she suggests revisiting the song "OPP". I haven't heard of the song but recently just

listened to the 90s gem and after listening to it I can understand the hip-hop and science aspect of her TedTalk. I also find it very interesting how she drew a comparison from her field of science to a song in Hip-hop.

2) What did you learn from these resources about animal behavior?

From Dr. Lee's TED talk, I've learned that the songbirds and waterfowl, "originally perceived to be monogamous" were not. In the National Geographic video, Dr. Lee proposes a question from her research and is trying to identify the differences and similarities between rural rodents and city/urban rodents. She also gives them the name "nuisance rodents".

3) What do these resources tell you about the types of people that do science?

Science is complex, we make observations, ask questions, create solutions, iterate, and observe phenomena to try to understand the natural world and how it works. Science is such a diverse field, and it's amazing and inspirational to see people in different fields of science perform the scientific method. These resources reaffirm what I think/know about the types of people who do science. They are curious, fervent, and intelligent, they all have different perspectives and things that motivate them to pursue specific disciplines.

4) What new questions do you have about animal behavior after reviewing these resources?

I don't have any new questions about animal behavior after reviewing the TED talk and national geographic videos.