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HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

SAS ACTIVITIES 2017 to acquire transferable skills

History of science

How Darwin Proved Evolution

David J. Archibald

Camerino 2017

Restaurant 'Torre del Parco' - loc. Torre del Parco

May 24, from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Seminar programme

In the 20 plus years preceding publication of *On the Origin of Species* in 1859, Darwin gathered information to bolster both evolution as a reality and natural selection as its mechanism. Darwin began gathering the evidence proving evolution during his almost five-year voyage on the *H. M. S. Beagle* including collecting mammalian fossils in South America clearly related to living forms, tracing the geographical distributions of living species across South America, and sampling the peculiar fauna of the geologically young Galápagos Archipelago that clearly showed affinities to South American forms. Near the end of his journey he realized that these three combined sorts of evidence proved species throughout the world evolved in different regions rather than arising in various centers of creations. Over the years Darwin collected more evidence supporting the fact of evolution, but when he came to publish *On the Origin of Species* in 1859, the early work remained paramount, so much so that it became the first paragraph of his book, encompassed three separate chapters, and later appeared in his autobiography.