



International Society of Hymenopterists Virtual Conference #Hymathon2023

30/11/2023 17:00 UTC

Keynote Speaker, Session #1



**Dr. Catherine Linnen
University of Kentucky**

From genes to species: how ecological divergence causes reproductive isolation

Dr. Catherine Linnen completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Georgia and her PhD with Dr. Brian Farrell at Harvard University, where she used phylogenetic comparative methods to describe the geography and ecology of speciation in North American pine sawflies in the genus *Neodiprion*. She took a brief break from sawflies during her postdoc (also at Harvard University), where she worked with Dr. Hopi Hoekstra on the genetic basis of adaptive coat color variation in deer mice. Armed with a new set of skills for connecting genotype to phenotype in wild animal populations, she started her own lab in the Department of Biology at the University of Kentucky in 2011 and is now an Associate Professor in the same department. Over the last 12 years, Dr. Linnen and her group have developed pine sawflies into a powerful model system for characterizing not only the patterns of population differentiation and speciation in plant-feeding insects, but also the genetic and evolutionary mechanisms that produce those patterns.