

Queering Science: Winter Walk and Talks

Join us virtually **or** in person at the Howard County Conservancy to learn more from researchers and scientists who identify as being part of the LGBTQIA+ community and/or focus their research on topics that have an LGBTQIA+ focus. Queering Science will consist of a 25 minute virtual presentation followed by a 5 minute Q and A. Those participating in the face to face program will still experience the Queering Science program through a virtual visit, but will follow-up with a walk around the Howard County Conservancy grounds to talk about what they learned with their peers. Snacks will be provided. This program is for high school students who are part of or allies to the LGBTQIA+ community. [REGISTER HERE](#) or scan the QR code.



Saturday, January 14, 2023 @ 10:00am

Dr. Claire Burke (she/her) – Climate Scientist

Dr. Burke started her career with a PhD in astrophysics looking at how the most massive galaxies in the Universe formed and evolved. Shortly after, she moved to climate science, hoping to use her physics powers for good. She worked for 3 years on extreme weather and climate change at the UK Met Office before moving back to academia to work on the application of astrophysics, machine learning and drones to conservation ecology. She did a 3 year fellowship developing the tech to monitor and protect endangered animals with approaches inspired by physical sciences and AI – they called ‘astro-ecology’. She now leads an industry-based research group quantifying and projecting the impacts of climate change on buildings, infrastructure and society as a whole.



Saturday, February 11, 2023 @ 10:00am

Saad Usmani (he/him) – Data Scientist

Saad Usmani is a Data Scientist at [KUNGFU.AI](#), a startup that works on deep learning solutions for clients. Saad has a Bachelors in Physics and Astronomy and a Master's in Data Science. He works on solving complex problems using data science and machine learning in a variety of industries. He has a keen interest in climatology, natural language processing (the basis of ChatGPT) and creating geospatial visualizations. In his freetime, he goes on adventures with his partner and two precious cats.



Saturday, March 11, 2023 @ 10:00am

Dr. Jennifer Middleton (she/her) – Isotope Geochemist

Dr. Middleton is an Assistant Research Professor at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University. She uses noble gas analyses and complementary geochemical tracers in the geologic record (e.g., rock and seafloor sediment samples) to evaluate interactions between the oceans, atmosphere, ice sheets, and solid Earth over a range of past climatic conditions. She also works to increase Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the geosciences (and in STEM in general).



Saturday, April 1, 2023 @ 10:00am

Eliot Schrefer (he/him) – Author

ELIOT SCHREFER is a New York Times-bestselling author, and has twice been a finalist for the National Book Award. Join Eliot in a conversation about queer behavior in animals based on research Eliot completed for his book, *Queer Ducks (And Other Animals): The Natural World of Animal Sexuality*. Queer behavior in animals is as diverse and complex—and as natural—as it is in our own species. It doesn't set us apart from animals—it bonds us even closer to our animal selves. The first 40 students who register (and attend) this Queering Science program will receive a free copy of the book at the conclusion of the event.

About *Queer Ducks* - This groundbreaking illustrated nonfiction title from two-time National Book Award finalist and New York Times bestselling author Eliot Schrefer is a well-researched and teen-friendly exploration of the gamut of queer behaviors observed in animals. A quiet revolution has been underway in recent years, with study after study revealing substantial same-sex sexual behavior in animals. Join celebrated author Eliot Schrefer on an exploration of queer behavior in the animal world—from albatrosses to bonobos to clownfish to doodlebugs. In sharp and witty prose—aided by humorous comics from artist Jules Zuckerberg—Schrefer uses science, history, anthropology, and sociology to illustrate the diversity of sexual behavior in the animal world. Interviews with researchers in the field offer additional insights for readers and aspiring scientists.