Primate Comedy Club

Organizers:
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Overview:

Fieldwork and laboratory work are often full of surprises—unexpected events, funny moments, failures, and real challenges that rarely make it into papers or formal presentations. From logistical disasters and experimental setbacks to moments of confusion, exhaustion, or pure luck, research life is also made of difficulties, improvisation, and learning on the spot. Come and share those stories that usually stay behind the scenes.

In this informal storytelling event, field and lab researchers are invited to share their most memorable, funny, unexpected, or even difficult primate research adventures. In a stand-up style format, participants will take the stage for short 5-minute stories—carefully prepared or spontaneously told—covering surprising moments, mishaps, failures, breakthroughs, or unforgettable primate behaviours from the field and lab.

Stories could fall into three categories: (1) funny field anecdotes that capture the humour of everyday research life, (2) challenges and mishaps that reveal the reality (and chaos) of fieldwork and lab work, and (3) unusual or striking behavioural observations of primates that offer new insight into the lives of primates and our study species.

This is a space to laugh, reflect, and connect through shared experiences of research life in all its complexity, both the hilarious and the hard.

Places are unlimited. You can attend without going on stage. **If you would like to present, please send a brief description of your story in advance via the Registration form.** You may also have the opportunity to join spontaneously on stage if space is available.

How to prepare your story (5 minutes max)?

Keep it simple and focused on one main story or moment. You don't need to cover your whole fieldwork experience, just choose a single anecdote that stands out, whether it is funny, surprising, difficult, or unexpected. The story should be in english.

Think in terms of a short narrative:

- Where were you and what was going on?
- What was the situation or problem?

- What happened in the end?

You can prepare notes if you want, but the aim is not to give a formal talk—this is more like sharing a story with friends. Authenticity, humour, and personal voice are more important than perfection. If you make people laugh (or cringe a little), you're on the right track.

Most importantly, keep it within 3-5 minutes so everyone has a chance to share and the event stays dynamic and engaging.

If you have specific questions about this, you can contact: alice.baniel@umontpellier.fr