WINGS is happy to invite you to a lunch seminar with **Jessica Abbott**:

Researcher, Evolutionary Ecology, Lund University

My main interest is in the evolutionary genetics of sex differences, especially sexually antagonistic genetic variation—in other words, when the same gene has opposite effects on the fitness of males and females. Sexually antagonistic genes and traits are interesting because they may hold the key to one of the long-standing paradoxes in evolutionary biology: the maintenance of standing genetic variation. When selection is strong and traits are heritable, it is expected that standing genetic variance for fitness should be rapidly depleted. Yet this is not what we see when we look at natural populations. Sexual antagonism may provide an answer since it means that the fitness of any given allele is context-dependent, preventing rapid depletion of genetic variance.
I have studied sexually antagonistic genetic variation in fruit flies (Drosophila melanogaster) for several years, and will now be adding a new study organism to my lab: the hermaphroditic flatworm Macrostomum lignano. Although it may seem strange to think of hermaphroditic organisms as experiencing sexual antagonism, there are good theoretical reasons to believe that this is the case. In addition to continuing research on fruit flies, I am therefore also carrying out an extensive investigation of sexual antagonism in M. lignano.

I am originally from Canada, and started my undergraduate degree at the University of Guelph. During my third undergraduate year I came to Lund as part of an international

exchange program. I liked it so much that I wanted to stay longer, and ended up living there for 8 years while completing a Master's and and a PhD on polymorphism in damselflies under the supervision of Erik Svensson. During that time I met my husband, got married, and we had our first child.
In 2007 we moved to Canada so that I could do a postdoc with Adam Chippindale at Queen's University in Kingston. We stayed there for just over two years, and our second child was born there. In November 2009 we moved back to Sweden so that I could join Ted Morrow's lab at Uppsala University. I worked there for two years, the second year as part of a collaboration with Klaus Reinhardt from the University of Tübingen.
And now, after four and a half years away, I'm back in Lund again!

Date: **20th May, 2015** 12:00 – 13:00 PM

Location: **BMC room I1341,**
Sölvegatan 19, Lund

For those without BMC access cards, the reception is happy to help. A pickup of lunch seminar attendees at 11.55 from the BMC reception will be organized by a WINGS member.

You are welcome to bring your own lunch, light refreshments will be provided. Lunch can be purchased from Stamstället, downstairs from the BMC reception.

Please send an email by 15th **May** to linnea.taylor@med.lu.se or register at http://goo.gl/forms/QC4LP30Xmy if you want to participate.

We look forward to seeing you there!

http://www.lu.se/wings