

Pre-Darwinian Evolution Reading Group

II. The Life of Alfred Russel Wallace

Alfred Russel Wallace (1823-1913): naturalist, professional collector, founder of the field of biogeography, social reformer, spiritualist, early evolutionist, and co-discoverer (along with Charles Darwin) of the principle of natural selection. Wallace will be the focus of this Spring Semester reading group which will explore evolutionary thought and the historical context within which Charles Darwin began his analysis of the process of evolution.



Readings will include:

- *Alfred Russel Wallace, A Life* (2001, biography by Peter Raby)
- *A Delicate Arrangement* (1980, critique of events that led up to the joint Linnean Society publications by Darwin and Wallace - by Arnold C. Brackman)
- The seminal early writings by Wallace on the process of evolution, including
 “On the law which has regulated the introduction of new species” (1855)
 “On the tendency of varieties to depart indefinitely from the original type” (1858)
- Various writings by Wallace on spiritualism, seances, social policy, and travels

Students, postdoctorals, and faculty are welcome. The reading group will meet monthly, in the evening on the following dates: January 28 (Monday), February 27 (Wednesday), April 4 (Thursday), April 27 (Saturday). If you are interested in participating in this group (which will be limited to 13 members), contact [William \(Ned\) Friedman](mailto:ned@colorado.edu) (ned@colorado.edu, 492-3082, or in person). The first organizational meeting will be in early January, 2002.

Nota bene: This reading group will not count for graduate credit, and will require attendance (with preparation) at all sessions. Reading loads will be significant.