The Romantic Lives of Dinosaurs

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SSMB Auditorium - Reception to follow

From the meter-long jaws of *T. rex* to the horns of *Triceratops*, the extreme adaptations of dinosaurs have long captivated public and scientific curiosity. But their evolutionary arsenal extended beyond weapons and armor, to tools of courtship and seduction. The romantic habits of extinct animals are difficult to deduce from fossil evidence. However, recent studies have shed new light on the love lives of dinosaurs. Sexual selection shaped dinosaur evolution in surprising ways, including the most extreme of all dinosaurian adaptations: flight.