

MINDS, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

Seminar Series

UC MERCED, Spring 2018

Kelly Weinersmith, Ph.D.

BioSciences Department, Rice University

**“Parasite Manipulation of Host Phenotype: Behavior,
Mechanisms, and Ecology”**

Abstract: Some parasites are able to "manipulate" host phenotype, altering host behavior in profound ways to increase parasite fitness at the expense of the host. My research aims to identify new examples of parasite manipulation of host behavior, quantify increases in parasite fitness arising from manipulation, understand the extent to which manipulation alters host personality traits, and determine the mechanisms through which parasites manipulate how behavior.

Dr. Kelly Weinersmith is an adjunct assistant professor with the BioSciences Department at Rice University, where she studies parasites that manipulate the behavior of their hosts. She is also co-author of the New York Times Bestseller *Soonish: Ten Emerging Technologies That'll Improve and/or Ruin Everything*.



**Monday,
April 9, 2018**

3:30 PM

COB 265

Please contact Paul Smaldino (psmaldino@ucmerced.edu) for more information.