



**VISITING
SCHOLAR
PROGRAM**

Julia Clarke



John A. Wilson Professor in
Vertebrate Paleontology
University of Texas

Public Lecture Offerings

The Secret Lives of Dinosaurs

Dr. Clarke shares the latest scientific discoveries about dinosaurs, including how we have started to gain insight into their color and sound. She has found there has been so much new to discover by looking down into the deep history of dinosaurs from the tips of branches on which “perch” living bird species. Her research has long centered on evolutionary innovation; how key traits and behaviors of living organisms are assembled in deep time. While her early research centered on traits related to locomotion, feathers, flight and the co-option of a wing for underwater diving, more recently, she has been focused on systems related to visual and vocal communication. She also profiles contemporary paleontological practice from field work around the world to how we use x-ray computed tomography to see new aspects of anatomy.

Alexander von Humboldt: A Forgotten Essay Speaks with a New Voice

Dr. Clarke started her own academic journey equally interested in literature and science. After undergraduate studies, these melded briefly in a Fulbright studying the history of natural history and nationalism in Argentina; however, they broadly separated for her early scientific career. Now they have rejoined as a Humboldt Research Awardee, collaborating with her students to re-translate a oft overlooked essay by Humboldt on the sound makers, or vocal organs, of different animals she reflects on the implications for our perspectives on Humboldt’s legacy and on his contributions to the evolution of vocal behavior like speech.

Classroom Discussion Topics

Storytelling for Change

Dr. Clarke has led programs that involve inviting reflection on one's pathway to a major and how it relates to the change you want to make in the world. Dr. Clarke will present work she and her colleagues have done building a new program that uses storytelling in empowering students to define specifically their scientific identities, career goals and professional pathways. Participants develop and reflect on their pathway maps. Dr. Clarke is currently Associate Dean of Diversity Equity and Inclusion at the Jackson School of Geosciences at UT Austin.