The goal of Tung’s work is to link fitness-related behavior, life history, and environmental variation with outcomes that are relevant on an evolutionary timescale, using tools from genomics and social mammals as the focal system. She will discuss work on the molecular mechanisms that connect social relationships—which are among the most robust predictors of Darwinian fitness in social mammals—to downstream outcomes for immune function and aging. She will also discuss the emerging understanding of the causes and consequences of hybridization in wild baboons, focusing on a natural population in the Amboseli ecosystem of Kenya.

Jenny Tung is Associate Professor of Evolutionary Anthropology and Biology at Duke Univ. and affiliate with the Duke Population Research Institute, the Center for Genomic and Computational Biology, and the Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development.