**Zoogeography Assignment 7 (No due date)**

Ricklefs, R.E. (2008) Disintegration of the ecological community. *American Naturalist* 172: 741-750.

**Instructions:** It’s been a tumultuous week, and in light of recent events, this assignment will not be handed in.

We encourage you to consider the following questions as you read this perspectives paper, and attend online tutorial (via Zoom), this Friday, March 20 at 11:00am to better understand the concepts discussed.

1) Describe the two contrasting views of ‘communities’, with reference to how species are distributed along environmental gradients, as reviewed by Whittaker (1975). See: Lecture slides on ‘Geography of Communities’ (Monday’s lecture) to find the two contrasting views, one proposed by Gleason (1926) and the other by Clements (1916).

2a) Describe Ricklefs’ view of the local and regional community in terms of a “vertical perspective” and “horizontal perspective” (i.e. which perspective is local and which is regional, and how are these defined)?

2b) Give 2 examples of factors that influence community composition that are *excluded* in the “vertical perspective”, and explain how these might influence local community composition/structure.

3a) Give an example of when and why it could be necessary to think of “communities” as discrete, identifiable units on a local scale.

3b) Consider these ecological properties: genetic variation of a species’ population AND connectivity/dispersal. How could these properties affect conservation decisions if ecologists took a more regional (i.e. horizontal) view of communities?