NIMBioS Interdisciplinary Seminar
3:30 p.m.*, Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Dr. Nels Johnson
NIMBioS Postdoctoral Fellow

“Nonparametric Bayesian functional equivalence models for community data”

Ecological community data frequently contain large numbers of sparsely observed species. Reducing the number of species used in a community analysis can make model estimation and interpretation much easier. However, choosing this reduction is non-trivial. Important species can be left out of the analysis or combined inappropriately. We introduce a nonparametric Bayesian model to simultaneously learn about the groups of functionally equivalent species and the corresponding parameter values of each group for describing an ecosystem function. We motivate this work using a community of methane-consuming soil-bacteria from across the North American Great Plains.

Location: Hallam Auditorium, Room 206 at NIMBioS, Claxton Education Bldg, 1122 Volunteer Blvd.

*Join us for refreshments at 3 p.m.