

Colorado

# CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

Tuesday 8 May 2012

at the Wynkoop Brewing Company

<http://www.wynkoop.com/>

Corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Wynkoop in LoDo, Denver

*About a block from Light Rail. Thirteen minutes by foot from Auraria.*

## Exploring terra incognita:

*the diversity of microbes in you, on you, and all around you*

**Noah Fierer, PhD**

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University of Colorado Boulder

Noah Fierer has been exploring ecosystems very close to home—in the microbes living in humans and in the ordinary indoor environments we all inhabit. While many scientists have counted the germs on indoor surfaces, Fierer has mounted a large citizen-science survey to assess the biodiversity of interior spaces. The group has been finding unusual microbial communities in ordinary places, like TV sets; it is possible that these represent unique habitats unlike any others on the planet. Where do the novel microbes come from? What do they eat? Fierer and Dunn plan to compile similar microbial survey data from the homes of thousands of volunteers from different parts of the world. Does the microbial makeup of the built environment differ with location, the density of the surrounding population, or whether a home is freestanding or an apartment? It will be the first comparison of houses from a wide geographic range.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME.** The discussion starts at 6:30 in the Mercantile Room (no food service there). Come before 6 PM to leave yourself time to get something to eat, or stay and eat afterwards. We end around 8 PM.

There's no charge. The Wynkoop is generously providing the facility; we buy our own drinks. It is first come, first seated, and **seating is limited** so that everyone can take part in the discussion.

The Colorado Café Scientifique is organized by an informal group of faculty from CU and institutions up and down the Front Range, as well as science fans from industry, government and elsewhere. We welcome your input, including ideas for speakers and topics. Bring them with you to the next Café, or e-mail them and any questions to [John.Cohen@UCDenver.edu](mailto:John.Cohen@UCDenver.edu)

**Essential information about the topic and the event on our Web site at:**  
**<http://CafeSciColorado.org>**