



Social Behaviour of Fishes in Australia and South Africa

THE CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEM SOLUTIONS PRESENTS:

Dr Marian Wong, UOW, Australia

Date: Monday 21st May

Time: 16:00 - 17:00

Venue: Building 20 Theatre 5 (20.5)

Refreshments will be provided



ABSTRACT

Last semester, I undertook my first study leave/sabbatical since my appointment as lecturer in 2013. During this time, I investigated the social behaviour of marine and freshwater fishes in Australia and South Africa, including: 1) field-based research quantifying anemonefish distribution and social group structure; 2) generating a long-term dataset describing the impacts of cyclone and bleaching on coral-goby abundance and group structure, 3) a laboratory investigation on the impacts of elevated CO₂ and acclimation on anemonefish social behaviour and 4) investigating the social behaviour of endangered freshwater fishes in South Africa. I will present preliminary data on these projects and discuss future work.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Marian Wong completed her BA at Cambridge University, UK, before undertaking a PhD in marine biology at James Cook University, Townsville. After two post-doctoral fellowships in Canada (McMaster University) and the US (Boston University), Maz joined UOW as a lecturer in 2013. Her research interests lie in the behavioural ecology and conservation behaviour of social fishes. Her lab uses social fishes from both marine and freshwater environments as model species to test key hypotheses related to the evolution of conflict, cooperation, group-living and mating systems. The techniques used range from observational and experimental approaches in the field to physiological assessments of underlying proximate mechanisms in the laboratory. Her lab is also interested in understanding the impacts of abiotic stressors on the behaviour of social fishes and how this impacts higher levels of their social organisation.



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