



About ghosts and parasites: Studies on the interactions between the three spine stickleback and its parasitic tapeworm

Ms. Anika Wohleben, Friday, October 23, 2020

3:00 – 4:00 PM, Zoom Virtual meeting room

Presentation: Infection rates often vary substantially among host populations, both on local and global scales. For parasites with complex life cycles, meaning that the parasite moves between two or more hosts, the potential for local adaptation can be strongly constrained if the most mobile host exhibits high dispersal, whereas spatially restricted hosts can exhibit population differentiation in response to the parasite. To understand the interaction of such systems, we need to assess whether population differences in infection rates are due to ecological factors, evolutionary adaptation, or a combination. In this talk I will introduce the fascinating and complex interaction between the tapeworm parasite, *Schistocephalus solidus* and its specific intermediate host, the threespine stickleback fish, *Gasterosteus aculeatus*.

About the speaker: Anika finished her Master of Science in Biosciences at the University of Münster (Germany) in 2015, studying the immune manipulation of threespine sticklebacks by the cestode parasite *S. solidus* during early infection and the development of the infection rate. After that, she proceeded to start a PhD in Biology at Clark University (Worcester, MA, USA) focusing again on the interaction of stickleback and the manipulation by the *S. solidus* parasite. She is studying the co-evolution and evolutionary ecology of stickleback and parasite in numerous Alaskan populations. Since starting her research at Clark University, Anika has been an active member on the Graduate Student Council, engaged in Diversity & Inclusion initiatives and worked as a Graduate Teaching Assistant.



Seminar information: This seminar will be held virtually via Zoom. To log into the seminar please use the following web link:

<https://fresnostate.zoom.us/j/93828128141?pwd=K2NuaEExTGpLVWMON2lvWnpETHMyQT09>

Passcode: 542050