**Title:** What drives study-dependent differences in distance-decay relationships of microbial communities?

Authors: \*Dave R Clark<sup>1,2</sup>, Graham JC Underwood<sup>1</sup>, Terry J McGenity<sup>1</sup>, \*Alex J Dumbrell<sup>1</sup>

**Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup> School of Life Sciences, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ, UK.

<sup>2</sup> Institute for Analytics and Data Science, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ, UK.

\*Corresponding authors: Dr Dave R Clark (<a href="mailto:david.clark@essex.ac.uk">david.clark@essex.ac.uk</a>) and Professor Alex J Dumbrell (<a href="mailto:adumbrell@essex.ac.uk">adumbrell@essex.ac.uk</a>); School of Life Sciences, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ, UK.

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**Biosketch:** Dave Clark is a microbial ecologist whose research focuses on understanding microbial biodiversity and community structure across a wide range of spatial scales.

**Data Availability Statement:** Full raw data analysed in this manuscript are provided in Table S1. Full raw data and code used in this manuscript will be uploaded to the Dryad data repository upon acceptance of this article.