Mara Bohm

**Guest Speaker Quiz**

1. What you learned from the entire speaker series (5 points)
   * I learned that there are SO many different paths that I can take as a student in sciences. I often feel as though I am constantly being streamlined into “tenure track academia”, which I do not think is something I want to do. The speaker series really gave me fresh perspectives on what I can achieve as a scientist. I particularly liked that they were all young researchers working to make interdisciplinary change in the world, as I want to be able to do interdisciplinary work but before this series had no idea if that was even possible/how to make that happen. The series opened my eyes to the realm of possibilities I have and really made me realize that there are already lots of people out there doing interdisciplinary work. The series also got me excited for the future of science and the way it is beginning to be practiced by the newer generation of researchers!! Overall, definitely an eye-opening and encouraging series ☺
   * I also realized that everyone’s path through science is so individualized. All the speakers had really interesting but completely different paths and they all are now doing really cool things! It is definitely a relief to know that there is no “right” way to become a researcher.
2. Three vital pieces of information were given to you to succeed as ecologists (6 points)
   * Creativity is key – being able to adapt and be flexible when working as an ecologist is essential, as it helps you problem solve through your research and opens many doors for you
   * Developing complementary skills using computers (like using R ☹) is important! When used in tandem with your field skills, it can help make your science more effective and meaningful
   * It is important to check our own biases when doing science – we often like to pretend that science is purely objective and free of bias, but this is not the case. We must be aware of what we are bringing to the table when we conduct research
3. What information from the lectures you were able to use during the course/will you use in the future (4 points)
   * I learned the importance of being a “jack-of-all-trades” researcher. I feel like all of these researchers have strengths outside of typical “field ecologist” abilities (like R usage, drawing abilities and humanities background) and they have all integrated these strengths into their work in incredible ways. I want to be able to do this! The speaker series definitely motivated me to do my best to continue learning to use R and Github throughout the course, and I also want to take this interdisciplinary approach back with me to Victoria when I continue my studies. There are lots of non-science courses that I am interested in, particularly in sustainable policy, alternative economies and indigenous studies, but I have been on the fence about taking them since they are unrelated to my biology major or marine concentration. However, after this speaker series I realize how valuable these interdisciplinary skills really are. I’m definitely convinced to keep chasing those other interests because I know now that they will make me a better scientist overall!