OE3C 2024 Speakers

Keynote Speakers

Keynote: Ecology

Dr. Jessica Forrest (she/her/hers)

Dr. Forrest studies the evolutionary ecology of plant–pollinator interactions. She is interested in the causes and consequences of variation in species' life histories and seasonal phenologies, particularly as these traits relate to species interactions. She explores how pollinators and animal-pollinated plants are coping in a world that is getting warmer and more densely populated by humans. A primary application of Dr. Forrest's research is in understanding ways that climate change and other forms of global change affect pollinators (especially native solitary bees) and pollination. Her work has primarily focused on bees and plants in natural habitats, but she is also interested in how better knowledge of native bee ecology can benefit agriculture. Dr. Forrest is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Ottawa.

Keynote: Ethology

Dr. Hannah ter Hofstede (she/her/hers)

Dr. ter Hofstede conducts her research in the field of sensory ecology, specifically investigating how sensory systems encode environmental cues that are crucial for an animal's survival and reproduction. She has always been fascinated by animals and their behaviour, particularly by the ways in which sensory system evolution interacts with the behaviour and ecology of animals. Her research investigates how animal sensory systems filter the information they obtain about their environment and how sensory systems coevolve with behaviour. Much of her work to date explores the acoustic world of bats and their insect prey. Dr. ter Hofstede is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Windsor in the Department of integrative Biology and the Chair of the Behaviour, Cognition and Neuroscience program.

Keynote: Evolution

Dr. Rebecca Doyle (she/her/hers)

Dr. Doyle is fascinated by the concept that we, as humans, host many folds more microbial cells than human cells, and that DNA in microbes can have profound impacts on their hosts. In the Doyle lab, experimental approaches in combination with sequencing and genomic analyses are often used to capture evolution occurring in real time. She works to quantify how microbial genomes within a population change in response to environmental change, and in turn, how such microbial evolution impacts their host's ability to survive and reproduce. Dr. Doyle is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at McMaster University.

Panel Speakers

Patricia Huynh (she/her/hers)

Patricia Huynh is the Sustainability Projects Manager, a PhD candidate, and a sessional instructor at the University of Waterloo. Patricia leads the coordination, development and implementation of projects that advance campus sustainability within the context of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Campus Climate Action Plan at the university. Patricia actively works to link academic research and learning opportunities with tangible, on-campus pilot, demonstration, and deployment projects with a focus on sustainability and climate action. Patricia has worked as a biologist, nature interpreter, and conservation engagement intern and is passionate about conservation, restoration, community building, and sustainable living.

Jean-Marc Daigle (he/him/his)

Jean-Marc Daigle is a licensed landscape architect with over 40 years industry experience as both a landscape architect and builder in a wide range of commercial, industrial, institutional and residential settings. He is a creative and versatile designer with an in-depth knowledge of landscape construction processes, with extensive experience in field construction, project management and construction supervision. Jean-Marc specializes in ecological landscaping, ecological restoration and naturalization, “xeriscaping”, natural habitat creation, natural swimming pool design and construction, low impact development, and shoreline stabilization and enhancement. He has a keen interest in the creation of ecologically sustainable landscapes and greenspaces that foster positive experiences of, and interaction with, the natural world. Jean-Marc was a co-author of Restoring Nature’s Place: A Guide to Naturalizing Ontario Parks and Greenspace, recognized as a preeminent guide on ecological restoration in Ontario.

Brendon Samuels (he/him/his)

Brendon Samuels is a PhD candidate at Western University whose research focuses on the factors contributing to the risk of bird-window collisions. Specifically, he is investigating the visual sensitivity and corresponding behaviour of birds, while also investigating the structural properties of glass windows. Brendon actively advocates for the naturalization of urbanized areas and making cities as bird-friendly as possible. Brendon is the chair of the City of London Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee and the coordinator of Bird Friendly London. He is currently working with the Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) to mandate bird-friendly construction in the Ontario Building Code to significantly reduce the number of bird collisions with windows.