Dear Dr. Andrade,

We are reaching out to you on behalf of the Ontario Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution Colloquium (OE3C) 2024 Organizing Committee to inquire about your availability and interest in attending the 54th annual OE3C as a plenary speaker. We are pleased to be hosting OE3C this coming year at the University of Waterloo, to be held from May 2nd to 4th 2024.

OE3C is organized by students, for students, and provides opportunities for oral and poster presentations, academic and industry panels, and plenaries. As always, we want to showcase the incredible research being done here in Ontario across each of the three fields. Over the years, OE3C has become a staple in the Ontario biology community, serving as the first conference experience for many undergraduate and graduate students. Not only is OE3C an opportunity to showcase emerging research from student scholars, but it is an opportunity to build collaborations across institutes and for student leaders to discuss issues at the forefront of ecology, ethology, and evolution with peers and experts in the field.

We believe that your work on Australian redback spider behaviour and reproductive ecology would make for a fantastic Ethology Plenary. For this year’s conference, our committee has chosen “Dismantling Biophobia” as our overarching theme. We hope to touch on how Western societies have greatly distanced ourselves from the natural world to an extent that there is an active fear towards much of its beauty. We believe that your work on the intricacies of spider behavioural dynamics will act as a wonderful addition to this theme and highlight a misunderstood taxon.

We would, of course, cover all expenses throughout the conference (travel, accommodations, food, etc.). Please let us know if you are interested in attending OE3C as a plenary speaker. We are happy to address any questions you may have.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michela Contursi Lucas Greville

OE3C Co-Chair OE3C Co-Chair

MSc Candidate, UW Biology NSERC PDF, UW Biology