

WSL Distinguished Lectures

Tuesday, 12 October 2021 | 10.30–11.30 | Zoom



Emily McKenzie

Head of Evidence and Policy, Dasgupta Review, London, UK

The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review

The Review's starting point is that our economies, livelihoods and well-being all ultimately rely on nature. However, mainstream economic thinking ignores what we know about how ecosystems function, and how they are affected by economic activity. The Review calls for changes in how we think, act and measure economic success to protect and enhance our prosperity and the natural world. The talk will present options for change to ensure humanity's engagements with nature are sustainable.

Tuesday, 1 March 2022 | 10.30–11.30 | Bi



Prof. Dr. Markus Stoffel

Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Reading between the lines – stories of climate change and related risks as written in tree rings

Tree rings are often used to reconstruct past climate and to put anthropogenic warming into perspective. In addition to the climatic information, tree-ring records also contain information on past mass movements, such as rockfall, debris flows or snow avalanches. When analyzed across slopes, tree rings can yield valuable insights into changes hazard frequency and magnitude, but also on natural risks.

Tuesday, 9 November 2021 | 10.30–11.30 | Zoom



Prof. Dr. Ellen Dorrepaal

Climate Impacts Research Centre, Umeå University, Sweden

Plant-soil-microbe interactions as drivers of arctic climate-change feedbacks

Tundra ecosystems store large amounts of carbon in plants and soil, creating strong potential feedback to climate change. Plants directly control the uptake and microbes the release of carbon, but they do not operate in isolation. I will illustrate how plant-soil-microbe responses to permafrost thaw can link through belowground ecosystems.

Tuesday, 5 April 2022 | 10.30–11.30 | Bi



Prof. Dr. Bernhard Schmid

Remote Sensing Laboratories, Department of Geography, University of Zurich

Plant communities, biodiversity, and forest management

In natural forests different tree species coexist and contribute to ecosystem functioning. However, for almost 200 years we believed in advantages of monocultures. I will show that this belief is wrong and that planting mixtures can lead to huge productivity and sustainability gains.

Tuesday, 18 January 2022 | 10.30–11.30 | Bi



Prof. Dr. Thomas W. Crowther

Global Ecosystem Ecology, Environmental Systems Sciences, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Ecosystem ecology to inform global biodiversity restoration

Conserving and restoring Earth's natural ecosystems is an essential component in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. In particular, soils are a critical component, harboring the largest proportion of terrestrial carbon and biodiversity. This talk focuses on how soil microbial communities functioning varies across landscapes and how the understanding on soil microorganism can improve land management to preserve terrestrial biodiversity and carbon storage.

Tuesday, 10 May 2022 | 10.30–11.30 | Bi



Prof. Dr. Ulrike Tappeiner

Department of Ecology, University of Innsbruck, Austria and Institute for Alpine Environment, Eurac Research, Italy

Impacts of land-use and climate change on landscape and ecosystem services in the Alps

The European Alps offer unique natural and cultural landscapes that provide many ecosystem services. However, due to socio-demographic and economic constraints, agriculture and forestry have massively abandoned formerly managed land. In addition, climate change is having a particularly strong impact on the Alps. This talk will illustrate the effects of global change on the cultural landscape of the Alps and its ecosystem services.

Dienstag, 8. Februar 2022 | 10.30–11.30 | Bi



Prof. Dr. Reto Knutti

Departement Umweltsystemwissenschaften, ETH Zürich, Schweiz

Klimawandel, Netto-Null, und wir

Wir sind dabei, das Klima zu verändern, und die Auswirkungen werden weitreichend sein. Doch in einer Welt der Fake News, des Streits um die Lastenverteilung, der Partikularinteressen und einer in ihren Werten gespaltenen Gesellschaft reichen Physik und Modellvorhersagen für die Bewältigung von komplexen Problemen nicht aus.

Tuesday, 14 June 2022 | 10.30–11.30 | Bi



Prof. Dr. Michael Scherer-Lorenzen

Institut für Biologie / Geobotanik, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Deutschland

The functional role of biodiversity in forest ecosystems

A number of global change drivers have large impacts on biodiversity of forest ecosystems. Understanding the consequences of these changes in biodiversity on ecological processes and services is certainly one of the major challenges for ecological research. I will present results from large-scale projects such as FunDivEUROPE and TreeDivNet that tackle such questions.

Vortragsorte

Bi: Birmensdorf, Englersaal (Videoübertragung ans WSL-Institut für Schnee- und Lawinenforschung SLF in Davos)

Da: Davos, Hörsaal (Videoübertragung an die Eidg. Forschungsanstalt für Wald, Schnee und Landschaft WSL in Birmensdorf)

Die Vorträge sind öffentlich. Es gelten die per Vortragsdatum gültigen COVID-Bestimmungen des BAG (Zertifikatspflicht).



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