



UPO

UNIVERSITÀ DEL PIEMONTE ORIENTALE
DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE E INNOVAZIONE TECNOLOGICA

EVENTI DiSIT

Seminari | Seminars

Lunedì 04-11-2024 ore 13:00-14:00

Swimming in an “organized” group: factors affecting the position of killer whales in traveling formations

[Dott.ssa Federica Spina](#)

Università di Pisa

Lunedì 25-11-2024 ore 13:00-14:00

Culture in whales: the humpback whale songs

[Dott.ssa Carola Chicco](#)

Politecnico di Torino

Lunedì 02-12-2024 ore 13:00-14:00

From myrmecophilous plants to artificial galls: the complex relationships between ants and other organisms in different ecosystems

[Prof. Daniele Giannetti](#)

Università di Parma

L'evento sarà disponibile sulla piattaforma Meet:
<https://meet.google.com/hdz-dfnd-spy>



Swimming in an “organized” group: factors affecting the position of killer whales in traveling formations

One of the most frequently observed behaviors in free-ranging cetaceans is swimming in defined formations. However, the benefits this behavior can bring and the factors that determine structure and arrangement in the group are still poorly studied, as they are difficult to observe from traditional observation platforms (e.g., observations from a research vessel).

In recent years, aerial surveys with drones have provided significant improvements in the observation of the behavior of various cetacean species. Killer whales, particularly the Southern Resident killer whale population in the Salish Sea (WA, USA), are a study model that is being actively monitored using drones. The matriarchal social structure of the Southern Residents has been extensively studied since the 1970s, and to date provides fundamental knowledge for understanding how social bonds in this population affect formation swimming. Recent analyses of whale spatial arrangement within a formation reveal a non-random positioning of individuals, suggesting that kinships and social hierarchies within the Southern Residents population could play a major role in determining the spacing pattern of killer whales in formation.

SEMINARIO IN LINGUA: INGLESE | ENGLISH

Culture in whales: the humpback whale songs

Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) are social cetaceans known for their long migrations between low-latitudes breeding areas and high-latitudes feeding areas. During the breeding season, males produce a complex vocal display called “song” that play a role in sexual selection and is culturally transmitted within populations. Males in the same region adopt a shared song structure that evolves over time—a process known as “cultural evolution.” This song transmission likely occurs through acoustic interactions, showcasing an extraordinary example of social learning among animal species.

SEMINARIO IN LINGUA: INGLESE | ENGLISH

From myrmecophilous plants to artificial galls: the complex relationships between ants and other organisms in different ecosystems

Le interazioni che coinvolgono formiche e piante costituiscono esempi da manuale nelle relazioni mutualistiche animale-pianta. Nella maggior parte dei casi, questo sistema è caratterizzato dalla trofobiosi in cui le piante forniscono cibo alle formiche che a loro volta offrono protezione dai predatori e dai concorrenti. In altri contesti queste interazioni possono essere mediate da altre strutture come le galle. Le galle rappresentano un problema per la pianta ma, in seguito alla colonizzazione delle formiche, potrebbero diventare una risorsa apportando anche benefici. Questa panoramica si propone di presentare diverse ricerche riguardanti le interazioni tra formiche, piante e altri organismi e le nuove tecnologie ispirate alle ricerche sul campo, funzionali allo studio delle formiche sia in ambiente naturale che in laboratorio.

SEMINARIO IN LINGUA: ITALIANO | ITALIAN

EVENTI APERTI A:

Docenti | Teachers, Borsisti | Research Fellows, Assegnisti | Postdoctoral researcher, Dottorandi | PhD students, Studenti | Students

