

Biology Seminar



Western
UNIVERSITY · CANADA

12:30 - 1:30 pm
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BGS 0165



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Symbiosis as an adaptive process: understanding transitions to more complex life forms

Bacterial symbiosis is critical for organism health and is globally important for the functioning of both man-made and natural ecosystems. Moreover, by imparting novel ecological functions on the organisms involved, symbiosis represents an important source of innovation that has been central to the evolution of complex life. However, we still have a limited understanding of how beneficial relationships with bacteria evolve and transition to interdependence. In this seminar, I will be discussing recent evidence on how host-bound microbial communities evolve, how partners merge to function as a single metabolic unit, and how relationships with bacteria influence the ecology and evolution of the world's most diverse animal groups, the insects.

