



## Seewiesen Colloquia

Speaker invited by: Dingemanse Group

**Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 13:00 h, in House 4, Lecture Room**

### **Sex in the tank: what guppies can tell us about sexual selection and sexual conflict before and after mating**

Dr. Clelia Gasparini

Centre for Evolutionary Biology, University of Western Australia

Sex is rarely a harmonious process, and males and females often have conflicting evolutionary interests over reproduction. In most species such conflict rarely ends at mating because females typically mate with multiple males (polyandry), thus extending the opportunities for sexual selection to include sperm competition (where ejaculates from different males compete for fertilization) and cryptic female choice (where females moderate this competition). Using a small livebearing fish, the guppy, I study pre- and post-copulatory sexual selection to unravel strategies used by males and females to maximize their own reproductive success. In this seminar I will present results from my ongoing research that explores how these reproductive conflicts of interest play out across the sexual selection continuum (pre- and postcopulatory sexual selection). Insights from this work reveal how the females' choice of attractive mates can be undermined by male behavioural strategies, how males make faster sperm to win the (sperm competition) race while 'fussy' females potentially counteract these effects by slowing them down, and ultimately why choosing the most popular male may yet pay off for females.

## Who is Dr. Clelia Gasparini?

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| 2012- present | Marie Curie Research Fellow (IOF), University of Padova, IT-University of Western Australia, AU |
| 2009-2011     | Postdoctoral researcher, University of Padova, IT   |
| 2009          | PhD University of Padova, IT  |

## Selected publications:

- *Gasparini C, Serena G & Pilastro A (2013). Do unattractive friends make you look better? Context-dependent male mating preferences in the guppy. Proceedings of the Royal Society of London Series B: Biological Sciences 280 no. 1756*
- *Gasparini C, Devigili A. & Pilastro A (2012). Cross-generational effects of sexual harassment on female fitness in the guppy. Evolution 66 (2): 532-543*
- *Gasparini C & Pilastro A (2011). Cryptic female preference for genetically unrelated males is mediated by ovarian fluid in the guppy. Proceedings of the Royal Society of London Series B: Biological Sciences 278: 2495-2501*