



The University of Hong Kong
Division of Ecology and Biodiversity
School of Biological Sciences

Seminar

Speciation, unseen diversity and the management of marine species: linking genetics, ecology and conservation

Date: Monday, 22 March 2021

Time: 2:30pm

Venue: 6N11 and via Zoom



About the speaker:

Paolo Momigliano is an evolutionary biologist from the University of Helsinki. His main research interests lie at the intersection of evolutionary and conservation biology of marine organisms. He worked on a broad range of taxa, from protists to large marine mammals, and in ecosystems as diverse as coral reefs and arctic lakes. The overarching theme of his research is the application of genomic tools to answer both fundamental and applied questions in evolutionary and conservation biology.

Abstract:

Evolutionary biologists have long endeavored to understand the mechanisms by which biodiversity is born and maintained. This enterprise is central not only to unveil the processes by which new adaptations and new species arise, but also for the management of biodiversity. Reconstructing the demographic history of populations and the selective forces that led to local adaptation provides essential information for the management of natural resources in the face of anthropogenic pressures. In this seminar, I will provide examples of how evolutionary research can have an impact on the management of marine species. I will focus on processes (demographic history, speciation and local adaptation) that can give broad insights into fundamental questions in evolutionary biology and species (flatfish, sharks, marine mammals) that are of ecological and economic importance.