

The long and winding road – my excursions in evolutionary biology

Date 5th Mar (Fri.)

Time 16:00 (UTC+8)

Venue Zoom



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My recent arrival to Hong Kong together with the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 pandemic have left little opportunities for me to interact with students, postdocs and even with the staff at the DEB. Same goes with the personnel with other HK universities, governmental agencies and NGOs. This might have left many of you mystified about what I have been up to in the past, and what my intentions at the HKU are. In this talk, I will outline my career and research in evolutionary biology introducing examples of projects I have been involved with, as well as sketch some ideas for my future research here in Hong Kong. I will also reflect upon some of the lessons the career in science has served upon me recognizing that each individual career is unique and that there is a diversity of ways to reach similar end results both in evolution and life as a scientist.



Prof. Juha Merilä is the Director of Research Division of Ecology and Biodiversity at HKU. He did his undergraduate work in Finland and Sweden, and obtained his MSc from the University Eastern Finland, and his PhD from Uppsala University, Sweden. He has been visiting scientist/professor at Royal Ontario Museum (Canada), University of Oslo (Norway) and University of British Columbia (Canada). Before coming to Hong Kong, he has held positions at Uppsala University and Universities of Turku and Helsinki, Finland. His research interests span wide range of topics in evolutionary biology and ecological genetics, including evolution in response to new and changing environmental conditions.