



Qualifying Seminar



Preferences and Activity patterns of Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*)

Date: 25th February 2022

Time: 10:00 AM

Venue: Zoom







About the speaker:

Hannah Tilley is a PhD student in the Applied Behavioural Ecology and Conservation (ABEC) Lab.

The focus of her PhD will incorporate elephant sensory behaviour, welfare and activity patterns.

Abstract:

In contrast to many other diurnal animals which predominantly depend on vision, elephants rely on auditory and olfactory cues to navigate their environment. Despite an increase in studies investigating elephant cognitive abilities and behaviour, research examining elephant sensory choices in a foraging context remains lacking.

Through access to a group of captive female Asian elephants housed at an ecotourism lodge in Nepal, I will explore elephant behaviour through their different senses. My thesis will focus on elephant preferences regarding food choice and habitat. Additionally, using infra-red thermography, I will assess changes in temperature of elephants engaging in a competitive sport. As 30-40% of Asian elephants today are within captive or semi-captive settings, answering these questions may also aid captive elephant welfare and management.

