

## Understanding pangolin trade and population genetics with genomic methods

**Date** 18th Mar (Fri.)

**Time** 16:00 (UTC+8)

**Venue** Zoom



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Pangolins are the most trafficked mammal in the world, most prominently for their scales, which are used in traditional Chinese medicine. As a result of decades of exploitation, all eight extant pangolin species are under the threat of extinction, urging the need for effective conservation measures. However, owing to the elusive nature of the pangolin and the dwindling population sizes, pangolins are relatively understudied, which hinders efforts of conservation. Using seizure materials as a proxy for wild pangolins, genomics methods can be readily applied to extract information about the trade and serve as a proxy for understanding the fundamental ecology of pangolins. In this seminar, I will talk about how we used ddRADseq to attribute geographic origins to illegally traded Sunda pangolins seized in Hong Kong and infer trade characterisation in order to inform more effective conservation and management efforts for Sunda pangolins.

**All are welcome!**



**Portia YH Wong** is an MPhil student in the Global Change and Tropical Conservation Lab under the supervision of Dr. Timothy Bonebrake. She recently obtained her Bachelors in Ecology and Biodiversity at HKU, during which she began her training in ecology and genomics. Her research interests broadly lie in conservation and climate change biology with a focus on molecular approaches. Her current research is about the conservation of pangolins, particularly focusing on using genetics as a tool to understand the illegal trade and ecology of Asian pangolins.