

## The influence of a changing landscape on ungulates and their snow leopard predator

**Date** 25<sup>th</sup> Mar (Fri.)

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

**Venue** Zoom



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Predicting how wildlife will respond to anthropocentric landscape alteration is a major challenge in ecology. This talk reported the study of my PhD period, focusing on the sensitive high-elevation mountain ecosystem of the Tibetan Changtang as a case study to research this topic. The study implied multidisciplinary methods including community survey, vegetation survey, animal camera traps and theoretical modelling. Landscape alteration via change in land use patterns, and urbanization, is firstly characterized in the study site, which is an area that experiences a typical amount of nature-livestock conflict across the Tibetan Plateau. Vegetation distribution and wildlife occupancy is then investigated as responding variables for urbanization index and land use. Finally, a theoretical model is built to study the impact of different livestock density on the wildlife population. Negative results will be largely discussed.



**Xuefei Yao** is currently a PhD student supervised by Prof Tim Coulson and Dr Joeline Hughes at the Zoology Department, University of Oxford. My main research interests is how environmental and landscape change impacts ecosystem structure and functions. I am currently studying the delicate, high elevation mountain ecosystems in the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau where Snow Leopard serves as the apex predator.

**All are welcome!**