

## Reservoir or rubbish? The genetic fitness and conservation value of Hong Kong's cockatoos

**Date** 15 Sep (Fri.)

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

**Venue** 3N01 & Zoom



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Cities that serve as central nodes in wildlife trade networks often become introduction sites for exotic species traded as pets. Hong Kong (HK) city centre has for ~80 years been host to an introduced population of Yellow-crested Cockatoos (*Cacatua sulphurea*). This city population comprises ~10% of global wild *C. sulphurea* – an endangered species threatened by trapping for trade, reduced to a few thousand individuals spread across the Wallacean archipelago. We sequenced whole genomes of 40 HK cockatoos and 16 museum specimens from the 7 described subspecies, generating high-quality SNPs to evaluate whether HK's cockatoos have been impacted by negative genetic characteristics, providing the basis for informed conservation management and maximising conservation contributions of this cockatoo population going forward.



**Dr. Astrid Andersson** is a Post Doctoral Fellow at HKU School of Biological Sciences, supervised by Prof. Juha Merilä. She also did her PhD at HKU on Hong Kong's cockatoo population, supervised by Dr. Dingle. She has been working on issues related to wildlife trade for over 10 years.

**All are welcome!**