



The University of Hong Kong
School of Biological Sciences

**Public
Seminar**

RESPONSES TO FOOD, NOVELTY AND ACTIVITY IN CAPTIVE ASIAN ELEPHANTS (*ELEPHAS MAXIMUS*)

Date: 7th February 2025

Time: 10:30 am HKT

Venue: 6N-11 & Zoom



About the speaker:

Hannah Tilley completed a Masters of research at UCL and a Zoology degree at Birmingham (UK) prior to her PhD.

ABSTRACT:

Animals respond to external environmental stimuli that alters their physiology and behaviour, enabling individuals to navigate their environments. **I investigated the physiological and behavioural responses of captive Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) in different contexts.**

Through behaviour-focused choice tests and presentation experiments, I analysed elephant responses to different foods. This included testing choices for specific food items and assessing food-based decisions based on sensory modality. These findings prompted further exploration of food preferences and the possibility of neophobia in a foraging context in elephants. Results provide a thorough analysis of elephant behaviour in different contexts, providing an understanding of which foods may be used to motivate elephants during training and of potential wild elephant responses to food novelty which may be important for combating crop foraging in range countries.

---EVERYONE WELCOME---

