NUS National University of Singapore | Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science

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Mon, 12 Jan 2026 | 4 pm | S3-05-02 Conference Room 1

Hosted by Assistant Prof Eunice Jingmei Tan

Ecological Light Pollution: the baby, the wolf and the silver bullet

By Therésa Jones
The University of Melbourne

Ecological light pollution is one of the fastest growing environmental pollutants that has broad ranging consequences for life. I will base my talk on the concept of the baby, the wolf and the silver bullet. First, I will outline the importance of natural light cycles as drivers of biological process (the baby). I will then discuss the myriad ways that light pollution affects ecology (the wolf) with a focus on research that has been conducted in the Urban Light Lab. This will include how light pollution influences physiology, behaviour and life history processes as well as it's broader impact on community structure and biodiversity. I will conclude by considering how humans might solve (mostly likely mitigate) the problem of light pollution in a world that is so dependent on nighttime illumination (the silver bullet).

About the Speaker

Therésa Jones is a Professor in the School of BioSciences, University of Melbourne. She is an evolutionary and behavioural ecologist who explores the ecological impact of light pollution. Her research has demonstrated the largely negative effects of artificial light at night on the behaviour and physiology of multiple animal species and their communities. She works with external stakeholders to translate academic knowledge into real world solutions that mitigate the impact of light pollution for wildlife. She has contributed to State and National light pollution guidelines in Australia and is a director and Chair of the Ecology Committee for the Australasian Dark Sky Alliance