



SEMINAR

Thurs 24 Sept 2026 | 4 pm | DBS Conference Room 1

Hosted by Prof Ryan Chisholm

Urban Ecology, planning and conservation: From Biological Invasions to Dark Corridors

Urbanization, biological invasions and a wide range of human-driven environmental changes are reshaping biodiversity patterns worldwide. Quantifying such changes and understanding how species and ecosystems respond to them are essential for advancing conservation in increasingly human-dominated environments. In this seminar, we will present complementary perspectives from our research on conservation in changing landscapes. We will discuss the motivations for urban conservation and explore how ecological research can help inform conservation planning and management in cities and beyond. We will discuss avian invasions, examining how non-native bird species establish and interact with native species across urban and natural landscapes. We will then consider emerging challenges and opportunities for urban conservation, such as adding the third dimension, namely the airspace, into conservation planning. Drawing on examples from Australia, we will show how novel remote sensing tools, including satellite-derived night-light data, can help quantify human pressures on biodiversity and identify opportunities for conservation action. These include the planning of dark wildlife corridors and other measures that support wildlife movement and persistence in urban environments. Together, these examples illustrate how integrating ecological research, technological innovation and conservation practice can help address the challenges of conserving biodiversity in a rapidly changing world.



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