
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Biology Department Seminar



Thursday, June 29, 2023 – 12:00 Noon

Cryptic Diversity and Hidden Interactions: Identifying Factors that Shape Coral Reef Responses Across Biological Scales

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Major questions in ecology and evolution are centered on how the combined effects of adaptation, plasticity, and interactions with other organisms—especially symbiotic microorganisms—shape organismal phenotypes and ecosystem responses. Understanding these phenotypic drivers is especially pertinent to reef-building corals, which are threatened by climate change. Yet, the study of coral responses is complicated by the existence of pervasive cryptic diversity, as well as the complexity of biological interactions that corals are engaged in. I will discuss challenges and opportunities posed by cryptic coral diversity and understudied biological interactions across different scales—from fish to viruses. Our work presents several novel and promising future directions for understanding coral reef biology, with important repercussions for reef conservation.

HYBRID! **In person:** Redfield Auditorium **Zoom:** <https://whoi-edu.zoom.us/j/92002611869> Meeting ID: 920 0261 1869 **By phone:** Find your local number: <https://whoi-edu.zoom.us/u/abYLma8Opw>