



Mon, 7 Oct 2024 | 12:30 pm | Seminar Room S1A 02-17

Hosted by Assist. Prof Nalini Puniamoorthy

SEX IN TWO DIMENSIONS: MATE CHOICE AND COMPETITION IN SINGAPOREAN HALFBEAK FISH



By **John Fitzpatrick**

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About the Speaker

Fitzpatrick is a behavioural ecologist that studies animal reproductive behaviour and sexual selection. He uses tropical freshwater fishes (including Singaporean halfbeaks) as the main study systems in his experimental work and uses comparative studies to examine evolutionary questions across a broad range of taxa. His research group uses these approaches to understand how interactions within and between males and females shapes selection on reproductive traits. Fitzpatrick is also the President-elect of the International Society for Behavioral Ecology. More information about his research is available on his website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/fitzpatrick-lab/home>

From an evolutionary perspective, reproduction is all about getting your genes from one generation to the next. But which individuals are most successful at reproducing often depends on the outcome of mate competition and choice. In this talk, I will examine mate competition and choice in the pygmy halfbeak (*Dermogenys collettei*), a small freshwater fish. Halfbeaks live at the surface of the water, where social and sexual encounters play out in a constrained two-dimensional environment. I will describe recent experiments examining mate competition and choice in halfbeaks both before and after mating, with a particular focus on courtship, condition, cognition, sexual ornaments and sperm performance. Throughout I will emphasize the role of male (not female) mate choice in shaping reproductive behaviours in these fish.