



INTERNATIONAL
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THEORETICAL
SCIENCES

TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

ICTS MONTHLY COLLOQUIUM

The Insect Mind

One of the most important tasks for any organism is to identify objects in the world around them. All organisms must, for example, discriminate what to eat from what might eat them. Identifying complex objects in an even more complex world is a difficult task, and lies at the heart of understanding how a brain makes sense of the world. Insects are the most diverse multicellular taxa on the planet, and are found in nearly every known ecosystem. Our group is interested in how insects identify objects across these different environments, and how they contend with the rapid changes our environments are currently facing. Our work traverses Himalayan meadows, coffee plantations, apple orchards, and even our own megacity - anywhere insects are important, which is nearly everywhere on Earth. Most importantly, we believe that understanding how insects make decisions can help us to understand ourselves, and also help us to live not just in, but with the natural world around us.



Shannon Olsson

NCBS - TIFR, Bangalore

Prof. Shannon Olsson is a chemical ecologist who listens to nature's chemical conversations across India's diverse ecosystems. A Fulbright Scholar, Ramanujan, and INK Fellow, Shannon's recent studies address ecological agriculture in India's coffee plantations, the impact of air pollution on our wild animals, the effect of climate change on our ecosystem services, and the bioremediation of our ocean microplastics by marine sponges. Her research has been featured by CNN, Inverse, TEDx, Science, Nature, Sci-Illustrate, Dublin Science Gallery, V&A London, Chemical and Engineering News, and the DST Science Express train. Since 2014, she has been faculty at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, TIFR. Shannon is currently Global Director of the echo network, co-PI in the Biodiversity Collaborative, a founding member of ECOBARI, and Special Scientific Envoy to India with the Danish Academy of Technical Sciences.

3:30 PM, 20 Feb 2023

Zoom link: shorturl.at/ahKQ3

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