

IBIOL Seminar Series



28 October 2026



12:15-13:30 PM



F200

Come for cool science,
stay for cookies and
coffee!



Margaux Corset

**Effects of cyanosphere bacteria
on the growth of the anatoxin-a
producing *Microcoleus***

Toxin producing cyanobacteria have become increasingly problematic over the years, threatening ecosystems and killing domestic animals. Cyanobacteria live in close association with other microorganisms such as heterotrophic bacteria. Interactions, such as cross-feeding and phyllosymbiosis, have been described between planktonic cyanobacteria and some heterotrophs. By contrast, very little is known about such interactions in benthic cyanobacteria. In this study, we investigate the interactions between *M. anatoxicus* and heterotrophic bacteria isolated in the Gorges de l'Areuse (Neuchâtel). By shedding light on biotic factors that stimulate the proliferation of cyanobacteria, our research should provide insights about the ecology of harmful algal blooms.

TALK n°1



Sylvain Lanz

**Towards robust and resilient
socio-agroecosystems in Swiss
agriculture: A participatory
action research approach**

Climate change challenges Swiss agriculture to adapt while maintaining ecological functioning and economic viability. This project investigates how farmers' decision-making and collective learning shape adaptive capacity, focusing on the interactions between scientific knowledge, technological tools, and farmers' situated and sensory experience. Using soil and water management under drought and heavy rainfall as a concrete entry point, the research will explore how participatory action research can connect individual decisions, collective experimentation, and agroecosystem functioning. Through local, multi-stakeholder living labs, it aims to identify the conditions that enable or constrain collaborative learning and climate adaptation.

TALK n°2



Gabriele Sciamma

**Variations on Nemo: dynamics of
social aggression in a clownfish
species**

Clownfish live in size-based hierarchies made of a large dominant female mating with the largest male followed by progressively smaller non-breeder males. All individuals within a colony maintain consistent body size differences across ranks to avoid conflict, making strategic growth a key factor for society stability. But what happens when an individual grows more than expected by his rank? My research focusses on a clownfish species in which individuals are less compliant with the size constraints imposed by their rank. In this talk, I will discuss the consequences of group and body size variations for social conflict by presenting some preliminary results along previous literature.

TALK n°3