

# C O N F É R E N C E



## **Sandra Binning, Ph.D.**

Professeure adjointe  
Département de Sciences biologiques  
Université de Montréal

### **Parasites and host performance: Incorporating infection into our understanding of animal cognition, movement and behavior**

**LE JEUDI 2 MAI 2019 À 12 H 30**

Pavillon Charles-Eugène-Marchand, salle Hydro-Québec (1210)

Studies of animal behavior and performance largely assume that individuals are healthy and performing at the best of their abilities in ways which are adapted to their survival. However, wild animals face numerous ecological challenges that can compromise their health, reduce their performance capacity and, ultimately, lower their fitness. By diverting resources and increasing host energetic demands, parasites can dramatically influence the ways in which their hosts allocate energy to movement and their brain. Yet, the role of parasites in influencing animal cognition and movement remains relatively unexplored, perhaps because animals often hide outward signs of sickness, and parasites tend to be small and inconspicuous to researchers. In this talk, I will discuss my research exploring how parasite infection affects the cognitive performance of a fish host. I will also give examples of how infection affects host locomotor performance via impacts on host morphology and physiology. Finally, I will highlight some recent theoretical and empirical research investigating the role of parasites in driving the evolution of seasonal migration and large-scale host movement patterns more broadly.

Lunch et breuvages seront offerts.

**SVP confirmer votre présence sur : <https://doodle.com/poll/4g5wdg8zqikm34hv>  
avant le mercredi 1<sup>er</sup> mai, 10 h**

Hôte : Nadia Aubin-Horth

Responsable : Dr Christian LANDRY  
[christian.landry@bio.ulaval.ca](mailto:christian.landry@bio.ulaval.ca)