



ECOLOGICAL INDICATORS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE: DIAGNOSE, EVALUATE AND ANTICIPATE



Date: Monday, 28th July 2025

Time: 09h30

<https://zoom.us/j/98185419493?pwd=nan4jMERV8pLcUibp7SlxaQ37hSC3N.1>

Meeting ID: 981 8541 9493; Passcode: 034507

About the presentation:

Human activities have profoundly altered the planet, prompting some to label this era the Anthropocene. A scientific, data-driven understanding of how ecosystems respond to external pressures is essential for developing effective adaptation strategies. Ecological indicators help track atmospheric changes due to human influence. Taxonomic metrics, used for over a century, show that species respond differently to environmental stress: sensitive species vanish, others endure. While sulphur dioxide once drove biodiversity loss, nitrogen pollution has been the dominant factor since the 1980s. If emission reductions succeed, climate change will likely become the primary force shaping species diversity. A synthesis of ecological indicator results will illustrate how the Anthropocene continues to reshape ecosystems.

About the presenter:

Cristina Branquinho is a Full Professor of Ecology at Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, and a researcher at the Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes.

CB is the president of the Plant Biology Department at FCUL, a representative of the UL in the Network for Environmental Studies of Portuguese-speaking Countries. She is a member of the Lisbon Academy of Sciences and a Foreign Academic Correspondent of the Royal National Academy of Pharmacy of Spain.

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