



PARIS  
LODRON  
UNIVERSITÄT  
SALZBURG

Umwelt &  
Biodiversität

## SEMINAR SERIES ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY

# Guest Lecture

Robert Schabetsberger

Paris Lodron University Salzburg

Departement of Environment & Biodiversity



## From myth to rationality – The mysterious spawning migrations of tropical eels in the Indo-Pacific

The search for the spawning areas of catadromous eels (Genus *Anguilla*) has a history that began with Aristotle's hypothesis that eels develop spontaneously from mud and so far has culminated with the discoveries of the European (1922) and Japanese eel (1991) spawning areas. Eels live up to several decades in freshwater before they travel across the ocean on a journey that sometimes takes months and ends at their spawning areas. Habitat destruction, overfishing, pollution and introduced parasites have driven several species to the brink of extinction. Throughout the Indo-Pacific eels are considered mythical creatures supporting subsistence fisheries. These areas have recently entered the global eel trade heedless of the contribution of these migratory fishes to the livelihoods of vulnerable human societies. Little is known about the marine phase of their life cycle. We investigated the spawning migrations of tropical eels and the oceanographic conditions along their migration routes. Genetic studies have shown that the different species hybridize. We have brought together an international team of biologists and oceanographers from Europe, Africa, and Japan. Learning about the locations of the spawning areas of these species and gathering new information about their population structures and potential levels of hybridization will be valuable new information that can help guide future conservation efforts.



Friday, October 6, 2 PM

Lecture Hall 414, NLW-Faculty

for more information **SCAN ME** 