

## **SEMINAR SERIES ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY**

Umwelt & Biodiversität



Sophie von Merten, Dr.

Paris Lodron University of Salzburg

**Department of Environment & Biodiversity** 

Host: Assoz. Prof. Peter Steinbacher



Wildlife is confronted with a rapidly changing world. Two of the most impacting drivers are climate change and urbanisation. While species can adjust to variable situations, the recent environmental changes confront them with new challenges due to their unprecedented speed. Currently, I am studying the influence of urbanisation on animal behaviour and physiology using small mammals as model system. With my collaboration partners in Portugal and Poland, I am looking at general differences between rural and urban populations and also focussing on the impact of specific drivers such as light and sound pollution. We found behavioural and physiological differences between rural and urban small mammals, analysed the influence of artificial illumination on the foraging strategies of shrews and studied the impact of traffic noise on stress levels and vocalisation in shrews. Apart from presenting these recent and ongoing projects, I will introduce previous projects which led me to my current research interests and give a short outlook on some ideas for my future work here in Salzburg.

Friday, November 24, 2 PM Lecture Hall 435, NLW-Faculty



