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## Lecture Series Environment & Biodiversity

# Exploring mammal diversity through hair: Using natural history collections to explore species variation in Eastern Africa

Dr. Noreen Mutoro

Universität Salzburg

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gabriele Berninger



Friday, December 19, 2025, 2:00 PM

NLW-Faculty, Room 435, 3rd floor



Research focus:

Mammology, tricho-taxonomy





## Abstract

Exploring mammal diversity through hair: Using natural history collections to explore species variation in Eastern Africa

Hair is one of the distinctive features of mammals and a valuable source of biological information. This talk will present insights from an ongoing tricho-taxonomy (hair-based taxonomy) study that combines traditional morphological methods with modern tools, including machine learning, to create digital reference hair atlases for identifying mammal species. The study focuses on Eastern African mammals and uses natural history museum specimens to reveal patterns of species variation and document regional mammal diversity.

## About the speaker

Noreen Mutoro is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Environment and Biodiversity, Paris Lodron University of Salzburg. She is interested in both fundamental and applied ecology and has worked in various interdisciplinary research projects. Her main areas of research include carnivore ecology, wildlife monitoring using non-invasive methods, tricho-taxonomy and species distribution modelling.

