

MINI SYMPOSIUM REEF STUDIES

Research in Tropical Reefs

Reef systems along tropical coastlines, formed by corals or calcifying algae, are hotspots of marine biodiversity. They provide a wide range of services to coastal societies and are often closely connected to adjacent ecosystems, such as seagrass beds or mangroves. They serve as spawning, nursery and feeding grounds and are permanent habitats for a variety of fish and other species of commercial, touristic and livelihood relevance. The reef structure, moreover, provides coastal protection against strong erosive forces of currents and surf waves. These reef systems are under threat through direct and indirect human activities such as pollution, eutrophication, physical damage

and overfishing, caused by an intensified use of the areas through tourism and/or urbanisation of adjacent coasts. The potential of regime shifts in reef systems and their surroundings as effect of global climate change (e.g. sea level and temperature rise or water acidification) calls for the identification of key drivers and tipping points in these processes of change.

The objective of the Mini Symposium is to present an overview on ecological research in reef systems and discuss needs for future research. Presenters will report on their own work and research results as well as on their ideas of burning issues in reef research.

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017

Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT), large seminar room
Fahrenheitstraße 6
28359 Bremen, Germany

09:00 Coral reefs through the ZMT lens: A biodiversity treasure in need of integrative policy-relevant research

Sonia Bejarano, Ph.D., Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT), Bremen, Germany

09:45 A matter of perspective: Studying reefs across multiple scales and disciplines

Sebastian Ferse, Ph.D., Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT), Bremen, Germany

10:30 The reefs of the future: Seeing the unseen and the science we need to develop

Sarah Frias-Torres, Ph.D., Smithsonian Marine Station, Fort Pierce, USA

11:15 Long-term ecological research and monitoring of coastal marine ecosystems with remote underwater stereo-video techniques

Albrecht Götz, Ph.D., SAEON- South African Environmental Observation Network, Pretoria, South Africa

14:00 Benthic community shifts in coral reefs in response to environmental disturbance

Georgios Tsounis, Ph.D., Department of Biology, California State University, USA

14:45 Coral reefs at the crossroad – shifting paradigms in conservation

Marlene Wall, Ph.D., GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Germany

15:30 Feeling the heat: studies of past, present and future coral reefs

Prof. Bernhard Riegl, Ph.D., Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, USA



Photo: G. Schmidt, ZMT