NUS National University of Singapore | Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science

SEMINAR

Thurs, 16 May 2019 | 4.30pm | DBS Conference Room II

Hosted by A/P Roman Carrasco

Experiencing nature in a post-biodiversity world



Richard Fuller is a Professor at the University of Queensland. He studies how people have affected the natural world around them, and how some of their destructive effects can best be reversed. To answer these questions, the lab group works on pure and applied topics in biodiversity and conservation, spanning the fields of migration ecology, conservation planning and urban ecology. Much of the work is interdisciplinary, focusing on the interactions between people and nature, how these can be enhanced, and how these relationships can be shaped to converge on coherent solutions to the biodiversity crisis. See www.fullerlab.org and www.facebook.com/fullerlab

By **Richard Fuller**

Professor, University of Queensland, Australia

A scientific consensus is emerging that experiences of nature provide an enormous range of benefits to human health and well-being. It has also been suggested that nature experiences are important in prompting a person to feel concern for the environment and to take conservation action. Yet, as the world's population has become increasingly urbanised, the quantity and quality of our experiences with nature have declined enormously in the past few decades. This has potentially harmful consequences for human well-being, and for our collective desire to conserve nature. Unfortunately, the science underpinning this topic is scattered, often inconclusive, and heavily biased toward certain aspects of the problem. In particular, the link between nature experiences and conservation concern remains unproven. In this talk I will consider how our experiences of nature are changing, explore the causes of these changes, and the consequences for human well-being and conservation concern. There will be brief injections of real data from our studies in Brisbane.

Artwork by Ann Nee, DBS, NUS