

BayCEER Kolloquium

Lectures in Ecology and
Environmental Research

Summer 2018



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH

Thursday

26.04.2018

12:00 in H6, GEO

Dr. Timo Conradi

Plant Ecology,

BayCEER, University of Bayreuth

Anticipating biome shifts

Given intensifying human impacts on Earth, a key question is how much disturbance ecosystems can absorb before they are pushed beyond tipping points, where they function on a qualitatively different level. I will present new tools to anticipate such tipping points in biomes using Earth Observation Systems and global databases on environmental and anthropogenic drivers. I will demonstrate their suitability for evaluating the sensitivity of tropical biomes to disturbances, and examine how tropical landscapes would look like if the Late-Pleistocene megaherbivores would still roam them. I conclude by illustrating applications in conservation and landscape planning that aim at preventing undesired biome shifts and associated changes to biodiversity.