

BayCEER Kolloquium

Lectures in Ecology and
Environmental Research

winter 2025/26



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH

Donnerstag/Thursday

20.11.2025

12:30 in H6, GEO



Dr. Jos Kramer

Evolutionary Animal Ecology, BayCEER

The social lives of insects and microbes – alone and together

Social behaviours are multifaceted, widespread, and essential to the diversity of life on Earth. They range from 'selfless' altruistic behaviours to selfish exploitation, span complex animal societies as well as allegedly simple microbes, and underpin major evolutionary transitions in the hierarchical organization of life.

I am interested in the benefits and costs of social behaviours and their ecological consequences. Over the years, I have studied the social lives of both animals and microbes using approaches from behavioural ecology and microbiology, and—more recently—genetic methods for community profiling.

As a new member of BayCEER, I will outline how I combine these seemingly independent lines of research in my current work to explore the links between animal–microbe interactions and animal social life.

