



**Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**  
**Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research**  
**The Swiss Institute for Dryland Environmental and Energy Research**  
**Mitrani Department of Desert Ecology**

Seminar

**Thomas P. Gilbert**

*Centre for GeoGenetics,  
Natural History Museum of  
Denmark,  
University of Copenhagen*



Tuesday, November 1, 2016, 12:00

Seminar Room, Old Administration Building

Participants are invited to meet the seminar speaker at the MDDE meeting room immediately after the seminar (~ 13:00). Please bring your lunch; snacks will be provided.

**The past, present and future of eDNA**

The extraction and identification of DNA from environmental samples (eDNA) has become an attractive 'must have' addition to many modern ecological studies, not least due to its apparent power in providing evidence of a species' present, even when there are no other traces of it to be seen. Among other benefits, eDNA has been argued to improve our ability to explore ecosystem-level processes, help generate quantitative indices for analyses of species, community diversity, and dynamics, and to confer novel opportunities through the use of time-serial samples and unprecedented sensitivity for detecting rare or difficult-to-sample taxa. eDNA is not, however without its challenges, some which are surmountable, others which may tax us for longer. In this talk I both introduce what eDNA might be able to offer your research, but also outline key aspects that still require improvement, and in doing so suggest future developments and innovations for research.