



**Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**

**Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research**

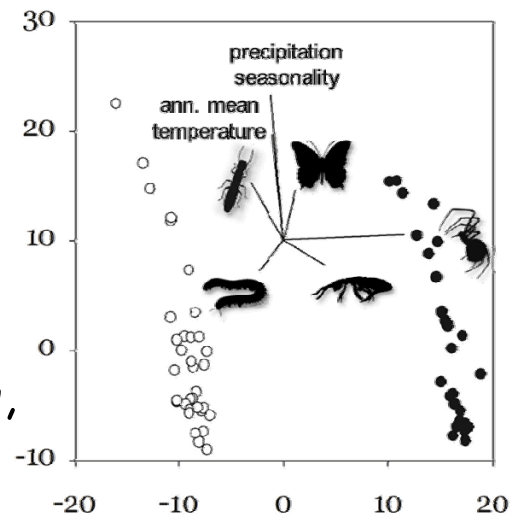
**The Swiss Institute for Dryland Environmental and Energy Research**

**Mitrani Department of Desert Ecology**

## Special seminar

**Klaus Birkhofer**

Department of Ecology,  
Brandenburg University of  
Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg,  
Cottbus, Germany



**Thursday, January 31, 2019, 12:00**

**Biology Building, Classroom 32**

## **Climate Change and Biological Control**

This lecture focuses on indirect and direct effects of climate change on trophic interactions involving generalist predators and their contribution to biological control services. First, the important role of generalist predators in terrestrial food webs is highlighted in general. Then, indirect (via land-use change) and direct consequences of climate change for trophic interactions along the predator-herbivore-plant food chain are discussed. The prey composition, food-web structure and biological control potential of predators is severely altered by future changes in precipitation and temperature patterns. These changes remain unpredictable and will be a major challenge in future agricultural production systems that rely on ecological intensification.