

# Urban island-like systems: insights on biogeography and conservation in the city

## Dr. Yuval Itescu

Institute of Biology, Freie Universität Berlin

24/12/2019, 12:00, Institute seminar room, Sede Boqer Campus

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Islands – landmasses surrounded by water – have been at the front of research of biogeography and evolutionary ecology for the past two centuries. Over the past few decades many isolated biological systems have been studied in the context of island biology, often giving minimal attention to their true similarity to islands.

However, these island-like systems differ greatly in many of their defining parameters from islands and among themselves. Still, if treated carefully, the context of island biology can be useful to study these systems. Urban areas form an interesting such system as they can be viewed as "islands" in an archipelago of cities, or as an archipelago of focal isolated habitats within them. In this presentation I will first discuss the potential differences and similarities between islands and island-like systems and the research value of considering them, using urban areas as a test case.

Then I will present empirical results from my studies of urban biodiversity in the context of island-biology, both among and within cities, and provide some insights on the biogeography and conservation of urban biota.

[yuvitescu@gmail.com](mailto:yuvitescu@gmail.com)

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Yuval Itescu3](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Yuval%20Itescu3)

