



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

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Tuesday, March 23, 2017, 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.

Parasites and food webs

Food webs are the conceptual framework that underpins most of community ecology. Until recently, most food webs did not include parasites. Parasites are potentially important components of food webs. There are many parasitic species. Some of them regulate host populations. Some comprise substantial biomass. Others can alter predator-prey interactions. New food webs with parasites show that parasites have unique topological roles. Food webs also affect parasites. Many parasite species require food webs to complete their life cycles. As a result, rich and complex food webs support more parasite species. Parasites might even indicate pristine natural ecosystems.