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Università degli Studi di Firenze

With the support of the network **Thermal adaptation in ectotherms: Linking life history, physiology, behaviour and genetics (ThermAdapt)** of the **European Science Foundation**, the **Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research** and with the Patronage of the **Department of Evolutionary Biology of the University of Florence**, we are pleased to announce the workshop:

The effects of climate change on vulnerable life traits of aquatic ectotherms: towards an integrated approach.

Schedule and Venue: The course will be held at the **Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research**, in **Bremerhaven**, Northern Germany, the **18th-21st September, 2011**.

Aims:

- to provide PhD students and post-docs with challenging points of view and ideas on the effects of climate change on aquatic ectotherms species and communities;
- to gather a multidisciplinary and heterogeneous cohort of scientists to merge the various approaches in an integrated discussion about future studies dealing with vulnerable life stages.
- to build a new and integrated approach to the study of ecosystem responses and species resilience to climate change, seen from the point of view of the weakest traits of marine and freshwater ectotherms life cycles.

Focus: The workshop will focus on the effects of climate change on the overall life cycle of aquatic ectotherms, stressing the importance of their weakest links and phases. We think, in fact, that a new ontogenetic approach is needed to forecast the effects of climate change on aquatic communities. As consequence, we will put the emphasis on the specific pressure exerted on embryos, larvae and sub-adults as well as on reproducing and spawning individuals. Young researchers from a wide range of theoretical and experimental fields, from physiology to evolutionary ecology, from behavioral biology to ecological modeling, are called.

Specific Topics to be Covered:

- Forecasting the effects of global change on reproduction of ectotherms;
- Tolerance to change of embryos: implications for ectotherms ecology;
- Tolerance to change of larvae: implications for ectotherms population connectivity;
- Thermal tolerance of ectotherms;
- Phenotypic responses to climate change in susceptible populations;
- Physiological and ecological aspects of reproduction and development in aquatic ectotherms;
- Acute vs. chronic stress on vulnerable life stages.

Keynote speakers:

- **Frank Melzner** - Leibniz-Institute for Marine Science, Kiel University, DE
- **Hans-Otto Pörtner** - Alfred-Wegener-Institute, Bremerhaven, DE
- **Enrique Queiroga** - Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies, University of Aveiro, PT
- **Nia M. Whiteley** – Bangor University, School of Biological Sciences, Bangor, UK
- **Gray A. Williams** - Swire Institute of Marine Science, University of Hong Kong, CN

Registration: The workshop is open to up to 30 participants and the registration is free of charge. We will accept applications from PhD students as well as from Post Doctoral researchers received before June 30, 2011. With the support of ESF, we will cover accommodations and meals for all applicants, while a limited number of travel reimbursements (10-15) will be assigned on competitive basis.

Applicants are invited to download and fill the **Application form** (available at www.unifi.it/climateandectotherms) and to send it back as PDFs to climateandectotherms@dbe.unifi.it

Deadlines:

30th June, 2011 – Application form and abstract submission

15th July, 2011 – Final approval of the participants list by the organizing committee.

For more information visit the web site www.unifi.it/climateandectotherms or contact the organizing committee (specifying *workshop infos* as subject):

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