

Dr. Shinichi Nakagawa

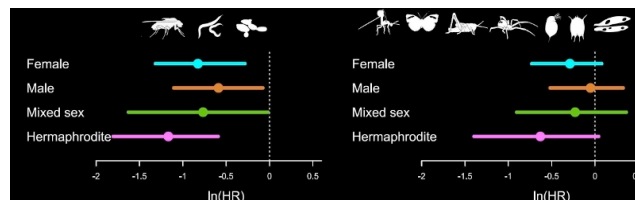
Department of Zoology, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

7 Feb 2013

Seminar 1. Tackling big questions with meta-analysis: a case study of dietary restriction and longevity

14:00-16:00 @ Room 407, Building 5

I discuss the importance of meta-analysis in biological sciences (especially in ecology and evolution) and try to convince my audience that meta-analysis is an extremely useful tool all researchers should consider learning and using. I explain what meta-analysis is and provide its brief history. Then, I illustrate my points using my recent meta-analysis on how dietary restriction can prolong lifespan in animals; this meta-analysis has produced surprising results, which disproved some of conventional views in the field. I will finish some ideas on how graduate students and academics can incorporate meta-analysis into their own research.



Seminar 2. How to become an academic: a personal account

10:30-12:00 @ Room 813, Building 5

I cannot imagine a better job than an academic or researcher because my research is just an extension of my hobby. However, a road to becoming an academic may not be so straightforward. In this seminar, I give a personal account of the frequently asked question – How can I become an academic? My short answer to this is to publish good papers in good journals within a short period of time. Therefore, I focus on strategies, which will facilitate your writing skills. Also, I will mention other strategies, which have made my research group very productive (24 peer-reviewed papers in 2012; see <http://sparrow.otago.ac.nz/>). I will discuss all these based on my personal experiences. So some points may not be generalizable, but I hope to inspire young researchers especially Master and Doctoral students.

Biography: I am originally from Nagano, Japan (grew up in Saitama). I completed my BSc(Hons) at Waikato University, New Zealand in 2003 and obtained PhD at Sheffield University, UK in 2007. I am currently a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Zoology, University of Otago, New Zealand. My research group has published over 60 papers in international peer-reviewed journals since my arrival at Otago in 2008; the research topics include behavioural ecology, evolutionary biology, molecular ecology, and applied statistics. I am an Editor of *Behavioral Ecology*, an Associate Editor of *Evolutionary Ecology* and *Emu: Austral Ornithology* and on the editorial board of 3 other journals including the leading journal *Biological Reviews*.