

**Speaker:**

Laura Figueroa, PhD
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Date: Monday, Feb. 07, 2022

Time: 4:00 pm - 4:50 pm

Zoom: 948 0131 1028

Passcode: 347039

Title:

“Flowers as the source of poison and the cure: a tale of pathogens in plant-pollinator networks”

Abstract:

Infectious diseases are a primary driver linked to bee declines worldwide. Flowers are not only sources of dietary protein and sugar for bees, but also serve as hubs of disease transmission. Surprisingly little is known about disease dynamics in wild bee communities, especially for species beyond honey bees and bumble bees. In this presentation, we will explore the world of bee disease ecology, ranging from how landscape simplification shapes the interaction patterns between bees and flowers, to differences in bee pathogen deposition and acquisition among different plant species. Moreover, we will discuss future directions for employing the latest research to promote pollinator conservation.