

Fiona Chong
Email: f.chong-2019@hull.ac.uk

Education

Sep. 2019 – ongoing **PhD candidate in Biology, University of Hull, U.K.**

Thesis title: Linking functional and demographic traits to predict population viability of marginal coral populations

- Currently exploring population dynamics of subtropical coral populations in Eastern Australia
- Taking a compositional data analysis online course from the University of Girona, Spain.
- PGCert obtained from the postgraduate training scheme.

Sep. 2017 – Sep. 2019 **TROPIMUNDO Erasmus Mundus MSc in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium; University of Queensland, Australia; Università degli Studi di Firenze, Italy.**

Overall grade: 17.81/20

Master's thesis undertaken at ULB; *Thesis title:* Ecological functioning of mangroves: a biology traits analysis.

- *Semester 1:* Université Libre de Bruxelles & Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Brussels, Belgium).
- *Semester 2:* University of Queensland (Brisbane, Australia).
- *Semester 3:* Università degli Studi di Firenze (Florence, Italy).

Sep. 2013 – Jul. 2016 **BSc Marine Biology (Hons), University of Liverpool, U.K.** *First Class*

- My honours project explored the community dynamics of East African coral reef which involved the use of a mathematical model and the use of software R and ArcGIS. This work contributed to a small part of a larger project and was published in PeerJ in 2017 (see publication list).

Scholarships and Awards

<i>2019-ongoing</i>	NERC PANORAMA DTP studentship: a personal stipend at RCUK rates for 3.5 years, university fees and support for research, fieldwork and conference travel.
<i>2019</i>	British Ecological Society Training and Travel Grant; £500.
<i>2017-2019</i>	Erasmus Mundus Programme Country Scholarship Award for TROPIMUNDO: a monthly subsistence allowance for 2 years, tuition fees and mobility allowances.
<i>2016</i>	Edward Forbes Prize in BSc (Hons) Marine Biology, University of Liverpool, U.K.
<i>2014-2016</i>	Hong Kong Graduate Association Scholarship, University of Liverpool, U.K.; £3000/year.
<i>2013-2016</i>	Vice Chancellor's International Attainment Scholarship, University of Liverpool, U.K.; £2500/year.

Relevant work experience

Jul. 2016 – Sep. 2017 **Research Assistant, University of Liverpool, U.K.**

- Assembled a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) to investigate the subtidal communities in the Liverpool docks.
- Gained familiarity with the software JMicroVision and R during the processing and analysis of biotic data collected from the dock wall communities, this work was published in PeerJ in 2018 (see publication list).
- Assisted my supervisor and students during any fieldwork/teaching/demonstrations involving the ROV
- Moon jelly (*Aurelia aurita*) husbandry.

Jan. – Mar. 2016 **Student ambassador, University of Liverpool, U.K.** (3 occasions)

- Spoke to applicants about my experience as a student in Liverpool and answered any queries

Relevant voluntary experience

Nov. 2019 – Jan. 2020 Student committee member of the postgraduate research conference, University of Hull, U.K.

- Sent out the call for abstracts; assembled the conference abstract book and conference programme.
- Set up the venue for poster displays and talks.
- Managed the conference twitter account & live-tweeted the event throughout the day.
- Chaired a talk session.

Dec. 2019 TROPIMUNDO alumni representative, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

- Participated in the internal quality evaluation process and the annual steering board meetings, voicing student concerns and feedback to the consortium members across all participating institutions.
- Observed the 2020-2022 intake student selection process.
- Relayed information and changes made to current students and the alumni community.

Jun. – Sep. 2018 Research Assistant, Griffith University, Australia

- Assisted with the planning and execution of two field experiments on intertidal mudflat macrofauna to examine ecological functioning.
- Initiation and termination of field experiments including: collecting box-cores, sieving samples for macrofauna extraction, and collecting sediment cores.
- Lab-work including: preparation of sediment samples for chlorophyll and nutrient analyses, sorting and competing preliminary macrofauna taxonomic identification.

Oct. 2016 – Sep. 2017 Aquarium volunteer, World Museum, Liverpool, U.K.

- Carried out demonstrations to the public during weekends.
- Handled rockpool animals such as the common starfish, green shore crab, beadlet and snakelocks anemones in the touch tank section; as well as dried specimens.
- Provided information on the biology and ecology of the animals based on the age of the audience, answered any questions appropriately.

Jun. 2016 – Sep. 2017 Volunteer records officer, Merseyside Biobank, U.K.

- Mapped habitat information extracted from older landuse maps using MapInfo
- Joined Bioblitz events organised in conjunction with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Sep. 2015 – Jun. 2016 President, University of Liverpool Women's Rugby League

- Ensured the smooth running of the club, and developed strong leadership skills including decision-making and negotiation, as well as responding to constructive feedback from the team.
- Organised team fixtures, both home and away. This included hiring pitches, referees and arranging transport.
- Communicated with committee, other league officials and team representatives effectively. This required lateral thinking to overcome unexpected issues such as adverse weather and conflicting needs of the different teams.

Sep. 2015 – Jun. 2016 Secretary, Liverpool University Marine, Oceanography and Ecology Society

- Member of the management committee which started the society.
- Responsible for all communications including: emails to members, arranging a seminar series, co-ordinating the society's contributions to World Oceans Day 2016 (a collaboration with the World Museum, Liverpool).

Jun. 2015 – Sep. 2015 Student Intern, Swire Institute of Marine Science, Hong Kong

- Assisted with the ongoing investigation of larval oyster responses under environmental stressors e.g. lowered pH and raised seawater temperature.
- Lab-work involved: strip-spawning of oysters, systematic counting under the microscope using a haemocytometer. I was also introduced to some proteomics techniques in quantifying the up/down-regulation of pathways.

Updated September 2020

- Participated in the Hong Kong Reef Check 2015.

Publications

- **Chong, F.**, & Spencer, M. (2018). Analysis of relative abundances with zeros on environmental gradients: a multinomial regression model. *PeerJ*, 6, e5643. doi:10.7717/peerj.5643
- Allen, K. A., Bruno, J. F., **Chong, F.**, Clancy, D., McClanahan, T. R., Spencer, M., & Żychaluk, K. (2017). Among-site variability in the stochastic dynamics of East African coral reefs. *PeerJ*, 5, e3290. doi:10.7717/peerj.3290

Professional memberships

- Student member of the British Ecology Society.
- Student member of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

Conferences Attended

- University of Hull Postgraduate Conference Day, Hull, U.K., 24th January 2020. Poster and Flash talk.
- The Ocean Clean-up Symposium, Institute for Risk and Uncertainty, University of Liverpool, U.K., 17-19th December 2019. Workshop participant and working group member.
- Mangrove, macrobenthos & management 2019 (MMM5), Singapore, 1-5th July 2019. Full length talk.

Skills

Driving	Full, clean driving license.
First aid	First Aid at Work qualified from Jan. 2020. Familiar with basic occupation health and safety standards.
IT	Microsoft Office Suite, R, Git, MapInfo, ArcGIS, ENVI, QGIS, JMicroVision, PRIMER 6 and 7, SPSS, Minitab, LaTeX.
Field-work	Have experienced both mensurative and manipulative experiments in intertidal and subtidal zones, e.g. using field guides on many rocky shore surveys (from the UK to Australia); as well as using SCUBA during the Hong Kong reef check; experienced in extracting samples from mudflats through my volunteering at Griffith University.
Lab-work	Familiar with identification of marine taxa under the microscope; systematic counting under the microscope using haemocytometers; the preparation of samples for the measurement of chlorophyll concentration using a spectrophotometer; mixing of reagents to make chemicals required; some husbandry techniques for <i>Crassostrea spp.</i> (from internship at SWIMS, HK) and jellyfish <i>Aurelia aurita</i> .
Languages	Can read and write traditional Chinese characters; Fluent in Cantonese, proficient in conversational Mandarin; French (level A2/B1 under Common European Framework References for Languages (CEFRL)).
SCUBA diving	BSAC sports diver and assistant diving instructor. Completed courses in: oxygen administration, practical rescue management and boat handling.

Interests

Sports: swimming, rowing, scuba-diving and cycling.

Food: experimenting with new recipes, cooking for friends and of course eating.

Travelling on buses and trains.

Reading.