

Profile Working Group Computational Eco(toxico)logy (COPE) Institute for Environmental Research, RWTH Aachen University:

The working group Computational Eco(toxico)logy at the Institute for Environmental Research focuses on complexity in structures and processes of hierarchical dynamical bio-systems. We develop hybrid mathematical and machine learning algorithms and methods for multivariate modelling, pattern recognition, causal analysis and prediction in life-science disciplines like ecology, ecotoxicology and biomedical research. To link available lines of evidence (i.e. theory, simulation and observation) techniques from statistical pattern recognition, machine learning, data mining and bioinformatics as well as approaches from complex systems theory and chaos theory are used in a wide field of applications. More detailed attention is paid to non-linear dynamics, self-organization processes, the role of information and entropy, the integration of expert knowledge into modelling processes as well as epistemological consequences. The working group is lead by Dr. Richard Ottermanns.

In our most recent research we apply the developed methods in questions about:

- **Behavioral profiling** using Danio rerio video tracking data
- **Immunophenotyping** based on single cell flow cytometry data
- **Expert-augmented statistics** in ecotoxicological bio-testing

Special long-term research questions we are interested in are:

- **Non-linear dynamics:** Bifurcation and chaotic dynamics and their implications for the stability and resilience of natural agent-based systems
- **Entropy:** Negentropic information flow and its relation to self-organization in dissipative living systems
- **Networks:** Integration of theory and observations to assess ecosystem integrity
- **Complexity:** Emerging phenomena and their relevance to ecological structures and dynamics
- **Limitations:** Gödel's incompleteness theorems and their implications for modelling in the life sciences

Contact:

Dr.rer.nat. Dipl.-Ing. Richard Ottermanns Dipl.-Biol.
Computational Ecology (COPE)
Institute for Environmental Research (IER)
Chair of Environmental Biology and Chemodynamics (UBC)
RWTH Aachen University
Kackertstraße 10
D-52072 Aachen
Germany

Room: 110
Tel: +49-241-8026688
Fax: +49-241-8022182
Mail: [ottermanns\(at\)bio5.rwth-aachen.de](mailto:ottermanns(at)bio5.rwth-aachen.de)
Web: <http://cope.rwth-aachen.de>
Business card: [download](#)