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# JEREMIAH PLASS-JOHNSON, PH.D.

Postdoctoral Researcher – Ecology of Marine Ecosystems  
and Responses to Stress (ECOMERS),  
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## PERSONAL Details

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Birth date: August 24, 1981  
Languages: English (native), German (conversational), Indonesia (conversational), Swahili (basic)  
ResGate: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jeremiah\\_Plass-Johnson](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jeremiah_Plass-Johnson)

## POINTS OF INTEREST

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- Diverse educational background including degrees from Australia, Africa and Europe.
- Diverse research experience including multiple marine environments (coral reefs, temperate rocky shores and Antarctic systems) and organisms (elasmobranchs, teleosts and invertebrates), terrestrial systems (African mammals) and different levels of biological organisation (communities, populations and genes).
- Experience with governmental work.
- Extensive publication record relative to experience.
- Proven ability to manage projects and conduct valuable research under conditions with minimal resources (Zanzibar and Indonesia)

## EDUCATION

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Doctor of Philosophy in Natural Sciences <i>University of Bremen and Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Ecology, (Bremem, Germany)</i>	June 2012 – July 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Thesis title: The functioning of coral reef communities along environmental gradients. (197 pages. <a href="http://d-nb.info/1075609453/34">http://d-nb.info/1075609453/34</a>)</li><li>○ Supervisors: Dr. Mirta Teichberg and Prof. Kai Bischof</li></ul>	
Master of Science <i>Rhodes University (Grahamstown, South Africa)</i>	Jan 2010 – Dec 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The trophic ecology of parrotfishes of Zanzibar: application of stable isotope analysis. (110 pages. <a href="http://eprints.ru.ac.za/2989/">http://eprints.ru.ac.za/2989/</a>)</li><li>○ Supervisors: Prof. Christopher McQuaid and Dr. Jaclyn Hill</li></ul>	
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Marine Biology <i>Rhodes University (Grahamstown, South Africa)</i>	Jan 2009 – Dec 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Thesis title: (1) Top-down control on population dynamics: the role of intertidal predation in structuring mussel beds. 42 pages. (2) Multivariate analysis on the effects of fishing of demersal sharks around Robben Island, South Africa. 35 pages.</li><li>○ Advisor: Prof. Prof. Christopher McQuaid and Prof. Tony Booth</li></ul>	
Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology <i>James Cook University (Townsville, Australia)</i>	Jan 2006 – Dec 2008
High School Diploma <i>Novi High School (Novi, Michigan, USA)</i>	Aug 1997 – June 2000

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Post-doctoral researcher <i>Ecology of Marine Ecosystems and Responses to Stresses (ECOMERS), University of Nice Sophia Antipolis</i>	Mar 2016 – Current
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Project director for the production of: The Science of Marine Protected Areas – Mediterranean version (www.piscoweb.org).</li> <li>o Engage partners for content and scientific input.</li> <li>o Conduct analytical reviews on literature pertaining to Mediterranean MPAs.</li> <li>o Supervise M.Sc. and Ph.D. students.</li> <li>o Write manuscripts and proposals.</li> <li>o Assist with English preparation of colleague's manuscripts.</li> </ul>	
Post-doctoral researcher <i>Algae and Seagrass Working Group, Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology</i>	July 2015 – Oct 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Concluded manuscripts resulting from the completion of my Ph.D.</li> <li>o Take part in the dissemination of information gained from my thesis to local partners.</li> <li>o Build collaborative projects through the EMBRIO workshop (www.embrio.ipb.ac.id).</li> </ul>	
Graduate research assistant <i>Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology, Bremen, Germany</i>	June 2012 – July 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Planned and managed projects within the framework of in the SPICE (Science for the Protection of Indonesian Coastal Ecosystems)</li> <li>o Conduct field experiments.</li> <li>o Advised and mentored three M.Sc. Students (two in the ISATEC programme and one of Hasanuddin University, Indonesia).</li> </ul>	
Freelance editor <i>Edanz Editing</i>	May 2012 – June 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Provided scientific and English recommendations for authors submitting manuscripts to Progress in Natural Science, Chinese Journal of Oceanography and Limnology, and Journal of Environmental Sciences.</li> </ul>	
Fisheries biologist <i>Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, U.S.A.</i>	Nov 2011 – June 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Conduct field surveys of shore, and deep reef community fishes around the CNMI.</li> <li>o Prepare reports for the federal Fish and Wildlife Department.</li> <li>o Engage with communities concerning our the department's findings.</li> <li>o Prepare manuscripts for publication in journals.</li> </ul>	
Demonstrator/tutor <i>Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa</i>	Dec 2009 – Nov 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Training for undergraduate students in cellular biology, statistics, marine biology and ecology.</li> </ul>	

## MEMBERSHIPS & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Reviewer for Ecology (1), Coral Reefs (2), PLoSOne (3), Marine Biology Research (1), Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences (1), Progress in Natural Science (2), Chinese Journal of Oceanography and Limnology (3), and Journal of Environmental Sciences (1)	Jan 2012 - current
Member of the International Society for Reef Studies (ISRS)	Aug 2008 - current
Chair of session "Trait-based approaches in coral reef ecology: from functional ecology to management", 13th International Coral Reef Symposium, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2016	June 2016
Invited guest editor for special edition of journal, Frontiers in Marine Science, 'Advances in Marine Science of the Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia'.	April 2016 - current
Grant reviewer for the National Science Foundation, USA (1), Sigma Delta Epsilon, Graduate Women in Science, USA (2)	Dec 2015 - current

## HONORS & AWARDS

Grant for publication costs, Leibniz Association (1350€)	April 2016
Award for travel and registration to the 2011 Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association conference (US\$2500)	Aug 2011
Stipend for two-year M.Sc position at Rhodes University awarded by the National Research Foundation of South Africa (US\$35,000)	Jan 2010
Research costs of M.Sc. project awarded by the National Research Foundation of South Africa (US\$25,000)	Jan 2010

## STAGES AND COURSES

Data exploration, regression, generalized linear models, and generalized additive models with an introduction to R. Highland Statistics Course hosted by the University of Coimbra, Portugal.	Feb 2015
Training workshop on multivariate methods for experimental and field studies in ecology, microbiology and environmental science, using PRIMER and PERMANOVA+ software. The Huntsman Marine Science Centre, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada.	May 2014
Certified European/German (Kommission Forschungstauchen Deutschland) Scientific Diver. Training through the Alfred Wagner Institute and Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Ecology. KFT-ESD Nr: D-268.	2014

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE, SEMINARS AND INVITED TALKS

Invited talk. Coral reef communities: discerning ecological patterns in highly diverse systems. Guest lecture to the ECOMERS lab of the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis.	Dec 11 2015
Workshop presenter. Enhancing Marine Biodiversity Research in Indonesia (EMBRIO). "Coral reefs in transition" hosted by Bogor Agricultural University. Indonesian, German and New Zealand inter-institutional project and ideas building. Bogor, Indonesia.	Oct 2015
Presentation on scientific diving and survey techniques of coral reefs. Marine Ecosystem Special Training (MEST), University of Hasanuddin, Makassar, Indonesia.	Sept 2015
Invited talk. Functional variability in coral reef fish communities. Application and interpretation of the FD package in the R environment. Presentation given to post graduate students of University of Bremen	Aug 18 2015
Invited talk. Spatial variation in the functioning of coral reef communities of the Spermonde Archipelago. Guest lecture given at the University of Hasanuddin, Makassar, Indonesia.	Jan 10 2015
Co-supervisor of Laura Weiland. Thesis title: Macroalgal selectivity of consumers on coral reefs of the Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia. M.Sc. Ecology, University of Bremen.	2014
Invited talk. SIAR and SIBER: Two methods for investigating the trophic ecology of organisms through stable isotope analysis. Presentation given to post graduate students of University of Bremen.	Oct 1 2014
Presentation on statistical analyses. Marine Ecosystem Special Training (MEST), University of Hasanuddin, Makassar, Indonesia.	Oct 2013
Co-supervisor of Nur Abu. Thesis title: Temporal variation in coral recruitment along a eutrophication gradient in the Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia. B.Sc. Centre for Marine, Coastal and Small Islands, University of Hasanuddin.	2013
Co-supervisor of Jasmin Heiden. Thesis title: Macroalgal recruitment patterns on coral reefs of Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia. M.Sc. International Studies in Aquatic Tropical Ecology, University of Bremen.	2013

## SAMPLING ACTIVITIES AND RESEARCH CRUISES

Field research, Spermonde Archipelago and Banda Islands, Indonesia, Sample and data collection of fish exploring variation in isotopic niche of important herbivores. Supervisors: Dr. Mirta Teichberg and Dr. Sebastian Ferse.	Oct 2014 – Feb 2015
Field research, Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia, Experimental transplantation of macroalgae assessing variation in consumer communities. Supervisors: Dr. Mirta Teichberg and Dr. Sebastian Ferse.	Aug 2013 – Nov 2014
Field Research, Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia, Survey of water quality and benthic and pelagic coral reef communities. Second, experiment on benthic community recruitment and succession. Supervisors: Dr. Mirta Teichberg and Dr. Sebastian Ferse.	Aug 2012 – Feb 2013
Field research, Zanzibar, Tanzania, Data and sample collection of fish, corals, algae and sediments for exploration of isotopic-based trophic relationships Supervisors: Professor Christopher McQuaid and Dr. Jackie Hill.	Jan 2010 – Oct 2011
Field research, Tsitsikamma National Park, South Africa, Experimental transplant of muscle recruits to explore variation in predation. Supervisors: Professor Christopher McQuaid and Dr. Francesca Porri.	April 2009 – June 2009
Field research, Cape Town, South Africa, Experimental long-line fishing of demersal sharks. Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Supervisor: Professor Anthony Booth.	Feb 2009 – April 2009
Field assistant, The influence of coastal upwelling on the biodiversity and ecosystem function of beach, in-fauna communities of South Africa and Scotland. Supervised by Pamela Cramb (Ph.D. candidate St. Andrews University).	March 2010 – Aug 2011
Research assistant, The effect of the presence of large predators on the foraging and diet of black-backed jackals. Supervised by Mathilde Brassine (M.Sc. candidate, Rhodes University).	June 2010 – Aug 2010
Research assistant, Assessment of fish and invertebrate census techniques and their application for marine protected areas. Supervised by Anthony Bernard (Ph.D. candidate, Rhodes University).	Jan 2009 – March 2009
Research assistant, Research cruise to Marion Island aboard the SA <i>Agulhus</i> , Southern Ocean. Food web ecology of benthic communities of sub-Antarctic islands. Supervised by Dr. Nicole Richoux (Senior Lecturer, Rhodes University).	June 2009 – Aug 2009
Research assistant, Investigation of the home range of the brown hyena in Kwandwe Game Reserve, South Africa. Supervised by Jennifer Marlton (M.Sc. student, Rhodes University).	Dec 2012
Research Assistant, Research cruise aboard the RV <i>Cape Ferguson</i> to the Whitsunday Islands, Australia. Changes in scleractinian coral respiration under varying light attenuation conditions. Supervised by Dr. Sven Uthick and Craig Humphries (Senior researchers at Australian Institute of Marine Science).	Jan 2008 – March 2008
Research assistant, Research cruise RV <i>Cape Ferguson</i> to the Capricorn Bunker Reef Group. Great Barrier Reef long	Oct 2007 –

term monitoring project. Supervised by Michelle Jonker (Researcher at Australian Institute of Marine Science).	Jan 2008
Research assistant, Dynamics of seasonal outbreaks of black band disease in an assemblage of <i>Montipora spp.</i> at Pelorus Island, Great Barrier Reef, Australia. Supervised by Yui Sato (Ph.D. candidate, James Cook University).	Oct 2007 – Jan 2008
Research assistant, The role of teleost herbivores on the maintenance of the macro algae <i>Sargassum spp.</i> of near shore reefs in the Great Barrier Reef, Australia. Supervised by Carine LeFevre (Ph.D. candidate, James Cook University).	May 2007 – Aug 2007
Research assistant, Development of micro-satellites for <i>Plectropomus leopardus</i> . Supervised by Hugo Harrison (Ph.D. candidate, James Cook University).	Jan 2007 – March 2007
Research assistant, Comparison of tropical and sub-tropical estuarine fish communities of eastern Australia. Supervised by Dr. Ross Johnston (Researcher, James Cook University).	March 2007 – April 2007

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## REFERENCES

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- Professor Christopher D. McQuaid    Rhodes University  
The Department of Zoology and Entomology  
P.O. Box 94, Grahamstown, 6140 (South Africa)  
Phone: +27 46 603 8535  
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- Professor Kai Bischoff    Universität Bremen  
Marine Botany Department  
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- Dr. Mirta Teichberg    Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Ecology  
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## ANNEX I

### LIST OF SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

#### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

9. Plass-Johnson JG, Taylor M, Husain AAA, Teichberg M, Ferse SCA (In press) Non-random variability in functional composition of coral reef fish communities along an environmental gradient. *PLOS ONE*
8. Plass-Johnson JG, McQuaid CD, Hill JM (in press) Morphologically similar, coexisting corals (*Porites lobata* and *P. solida*) display similar trophic isotope ratios across reefs and depths. *Marine and Freshwater Research* DOI: 10.1071/MF14248
7. Plass-Johnson JG, Heiden JP, Abu N, Lukman M, Teichberg M (2016) Experimental analysis in the effects of herbivory on recruitment and succession of a coral reef system along a naturally occurring water quality gradient. *Coral Reefs* 35: 229-243
6. Plass-Johnson JG, Schwieder H, Heiden JP, Weiland L, Wild C, Jompa J, Ferse SCA, Teichberg M (2015) Recent *Acanthaster planci* outbreak in the Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia. *Regional Environmental Change* 15: 1157-1162
5. Plass-Johnson JG, Ferse SCA, Jompa J, Wild C, Teichberg M (2015) Fish herbivory as key ecological function in a heavily degraded coral reef system. *Limnology and Oceanography* 60: 1382-1391
4. Plass-Johnson JG, McQuaid CD, Hill JM (2015) The effect of tissue type and body size on the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values in parrotfish from Zanzibar, Tanzania. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology* 31: 633-637
3. Plass-Johnson JG, Ferse SCA, Wild C, Teichberg M (2014) Observation of macroalgal browsing in juvenile humphead parrotfish, *Bolbometopon muricatum*, in the Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia. *Bulletin of Marine Science* 90: 763-764
2. Plass-Johnson JG, McQuaid CD, Hill JM (2013) Stable isotope analysis indicates a lack of inter- and intra-specific dietary redundancy among ecologically important coral reef fishes. *Coral Reefs* 32: 429-440
1. Plass-Johnson JG, McQuaid CD, Porri F (2010) Top-down effects on intertidal mussel populations: assessing two predator guilds in a South African marine protected area. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 411: 149-159

#### BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Plass-Johnson JG, Cardini U, Hoytema N, Bayraktarov E, Burghardt I, Naumann M, Wild C (2015) Coral Bleaching. In: *Environmental Indicators* (eds Armon R, Hanninen O). Pp. 117-146. Springer, Heidelberg, New York.

#### TECHNICAL REPORTS

3. Plass-Johnson JG (2012) Results of annual surveys of Sasanhaya Bay Fish reserve, Rota: comparisons of 2010 and 2011. Produced for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Monitoring and Assessment of Marine Sanctuaries.
2. Plass-Johnson JG (2011) Tinian marine sanctuary preliminary report. Produced for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Monitoring and Assessment of Marine Sanctuaries.
1. Plass-Johnson JG, Booth AJ (2009) Trends in the South African, long-line, demersal shark fishery. Produced for the South African Department of Marine and Coastal Management.

#### MANUSCRIPTS IN REVIEW

3. Schwieder H, Lukman M, Teichberg M, Plass-Johnson JG, Wild C, Gärdes A (In review) Coastal eutrophication controls the bacterial community composition in different reef habitats of the Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia. *Frontiers in Microbiology*
2. Plass-Johnson JG, Bednarz VN, Hill J, Jompa J, Ferse SCA, Teichberg M (In review) Contrasting trophic strategies of two coral reef herbivores in a changing environment. *Coral Reefs*
1. Di Franco A, Di Carlo G, Francour P, Gutiérrez NL, Jeudy de Grissac A, Milazzo M, Otero M, Piante C, Plass-Johnson JG, Sainz-Trapaga S, Santarossa L, Koutsoubas D, Dimitriadis C, Thiriet P, Tudela S, Guidetti P (In review) Building a "win-win" governance of sustainable fishing within marine protected areas. *PLOS Biology*

#### CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS (POSTER \*)

13. Plass-Johnson JG, Reuter H, Teichberg MC (2016) Drivers of change in coral reefs of the Spermonde Archipelago. Concluding Conference for "Science for the Protection of Indonesian Coastal Ecosystems". 20-21 January, Bali, Indonesia.
12. Plass-Johnson JG, Taylor MH, Husain AAA, Teichberg MC, Ferse SCA (2016) Non-random variability in functional composition of coral reef fish communities along an environmental gradient. Concluding Conference for "Science for the Protection of Indonesian Coastal Ecosystems". 20-21 January, Bali, Indonesia.
11. Teichberg M, Plass-Johnson JG, Ferse SCA, Wild C, Lukman M, Jompa J (2015) Controls on benthic algae in a disturbed coral reef system, Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia. Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation 23<sup>rd</sup> Biennial conference. 8-12 November, Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.
10. Plass-Johnson JG (2015) The Spermonde Archipelago as a comparison system to the 1000 Islands of Java. Three years of observations and critical points. Enhancing Marine Biology Research in Indonesia (EMBRIO) workshop. October 7<sup>th</sup>, Bogor, Indonesia.
9. Plass-Johnson JG, Ferse SCA, Teichberg M (2015) Fish herbivory as key ecological function in a heavily degraded coral reef system. Small Islands Research in Tropical Regions (SIMPre). September 15-16, Makassar, Indonesia.
8. Teichberg M, Plass-Johnson JG, Schwieder H, Bednarz V, Heiden J, Gärdes A, Ferse S, Lukman M, Wild C (2015) Linkages between water quality and coral reef benthic and pelagic communities along a nearshore to offshore gradient in the Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia. Small Islands Research in Tropical Regions. (SIMPre). September 15-26, Makassar, Indonesia.

7. **Plass-Johnson JG** (2015) The functioning of coral reef communities along environmental gradients. Ph.D. defence, 21 July. Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology, Bremen, Germany.
6. **Plass-Johnson JG**, Teichberg M, Ferse SCA (2015) Variability in coral reef-fish community function. Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography, Aquatic Sciences Meeting. February 22-27, Granada, Spain.\*
5. Heiden J, Teichberg M, **Plass-Johnson JG** (2013) Macroalgal recruitment in the Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia. 4<sup>th</sup> Young Reef Scientist Meeting, 26<sup>th</sup> September, Giessen, Germany.
4. **Plass-Johnson JG**, Teichberg M (2013) Understanding reef function and resilience in the Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia. Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Ecology Evaluation. May 2-3, Bremen, Germany.\*
3. **Plass-Johnson JG** (2012) The status of the marine protected areas of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and their effects on local fisheries. Saipan Rotary International Meeting, 29<sup>th</sup> January, Garapan, Northern Mariana Islands, U.S.A.
2. **Plass-Johnson JG**, McQuaid CD, Hill JM (2011) The role of parrotfish on Zanzibar reefs through the application of stable isotope analysis. 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, 15<sup>th</sup> August, Mombasa, Kenya.\*
1. **Plass-Johnson JG**, McQuaid CD, Hill JM (2011) Stable isotope analysis of parrotfish diet: effects of ontogenetic stage and functional group. 14<sup>th</sup> South African Marine Science Symposium, 6 April, Grahamstown, South Africa.\*