



UNIVERSITÄT
HOHENHEIM

30. OKTOBER 2026, 13:30 UHR, SCHLOSS BALKONSAAL

How to Exploit a Honey Bee

Lessons in parasitism from two remarkable mites

Honey bees are much loved, a symbol of sweetness and light, revered for their industry and seemingly self-sacrificial behavior. They are celebrated with phrases like "busy as a bee" and have inspired generations of writers and poets. But from a parasite's perspective, a honey bee is something quite different: a host, a food source, a nursery, and a vehicle for dispersal. Two incredibly well-adapted parasites, *Varroa destructor* and *Tropilaelaps mercedesae*, have both jumped from other honey bee species in Asia to our hard-working pollinator, spreading viruses and causing widespread colony losses. This talk will highlight recent discoveries and personal research results, exploring how these remarkable parasites have exploited evolutionarily naïve hosts and, with a little help from us, conquered the globe.



Dr. Kirsten Traynor

Kirsten Traynor is the director of the *Landesanstalt für Bienenkunde*. She is delivering this inaugural lecture as part of the completion of her habilitation in zoology and will subsequently be awarded her *Venia Legendi*.

INVITATION
TO INAUGURAL
LECTURE WITH
RECEPTION &
DRINKS



Mehr Informationen zu Dr. Kirsten Traynor
<https://bienenkunde.uni-hohenheim.de/>