

**Candidate:**

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**Thesis Title:**

Influence of historical landscapes, drainage evolution and ecological traits on patterns of genetic diversity in Southeast Asian freshwater snakehead fishes.

**Citation:**

This project examined patterns of genetic diversity in freshwater snakehead fishes across their natural range in Southeast Asia. Genetic data were used to describe the evolution of this group of fishes, and to assess stock structure in two economically important species in the Mekong River Basin. The study illustrates how historical drainage pattern evolution and freshwater connectivity have influenced the evolution of aquatic biological diversity across much of Southeast Asia. In parallel, results of the study describe the spatial scale at which conservation management should be focused to preserve genetic and biological diversity in this unique, species rich, tropical Asian freshwater ecosystem.