



## **Mentoring Lecture Series**

Empowering Women to Develop Academic Careers

June 14, 2012, 16:00, UZAII Hörsaal 2
Prof. Hildegard Westphal
Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology
Bremen, Germany



## Environmental change in tropical coastal ecosystems: a challenge for society

Tropical coastal ecosystems are of great importance to humans as providers of habitats for many organisms used as food resources and physical protectors of coastal areas. In addition they play a significant role in the global biogeochemical cycles of key elements. As a result of human activities, ecosystems such as peat swamps, mangroves, seagrass beds, and coral reefs have been perturbed to various extents. Eutrophication and ocean acidification represent critical problems for these ecosystems. To better understand the effects of regional and global perturbations on processes and ecological functions, we study the reactions of communities and organisms to these pertubations in natural laboratories. This research contributes to the scientific basis for developing management strategies.

The science lecture (ca. 1 hour) is followed by a Question & Answer period on issues specific to career development of women in academia (e.g., options, barriers, how to overcome them, good practices and strategies).

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