

Date: Fri, Feb 21st
Time: 16:00 (UTC+8)
Venue: ZOOM + 3N01



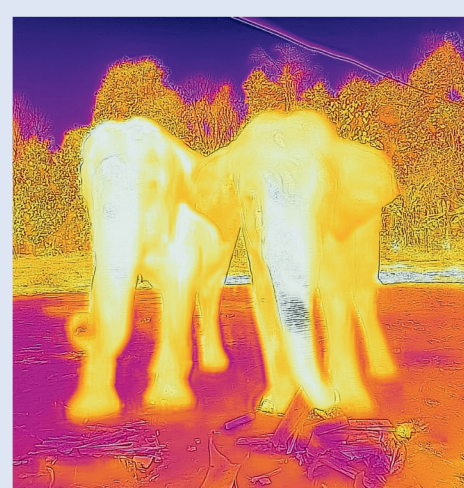
Captive and domestic animals are often required to engage in physical activity initiated or organised by humans, which may impact their body temperature, with consequences for their health and welfare. This is a particular concern for animals such as elephants that face thermoregulatory challenges because of their body size and physiology. Using infrared thermography, we measured changes in skin temperature associated with two types of physical activity in ten female Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) at an eco-tourism lodge in Nepal. Six elephants took part in an activity relatively unfamiliar to the elephants – a polo tournament – and four participated in more familiar ecotourism activities. We recorded skin temperatures for four body regions affected by the activities, as well as an average skin temperature. We found no significant differences in skin temperature change between the elephants in the polo-playing group and those from the non-polo playing group. However, when comparing the average skin body temperature and several different body regions, we found significant differences in skin temperature change before and after activity. However, as we found no differences between the average body temperatures of the polo and non-polo playing groups, we suggest that thermoregulatory mechanisms can counteract the effects of both physical activities the elephants engaged in.

Physical activity and temperature changes of elephants participating in ecotourism activities and an elephant polo tournament



Hannah Tilley

Tilley recently defended her PhD thesis from HKU which investigates Asian elephant behavioural and physiological responses. Prior to her PhD she completed a Master's of Research at UCL and worked on the effects of traffic noise on songbird vocalisations and breeding behaviour. She also researched neotropical bat behaviour at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (Panama).



ALL ARE WELCOME!

