

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Madelaine E. Bartlett
Sainsbury Laboratory,
University of Cambridge, UK



Title: *What grass flowers can teach us
about the evolution of form*

Time: Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 2 pm
[https://ipk-gatersleben-de.zoom-
x.de/j/64783767811?pwd=hndGulynz0tMsTZ3oKnPjTsgHfQDL8.1](https://ipk-gatersleben-de.zoom-
x.de/j/64783767811?pwd=hndGulynz0tMsTZ3oKnPjTsgHfQDL8.1)
ID: 647 8376 7811
Kenncode: 184928

Place: IPK Lecture Hall and via Zoom,
Corrensstr. 3, 06466 Seeland OT Gatersleben

Abstract:

The Bartlett group is interested in the molecular underpinnings of plant diversity. Which genes control the development of plants? And how have these genes changed over the course of evolution? We focus specifically on the grasses to answer these fundamental questions about the genetic basis of plant development and morphological evolution. This remarkable family has diversified to occupy almost every terrestrial niche, and dominates many ecosystems. Multiple grass experimental systems allow us to dissect the molecular underpinnings of this diversity, and to reconstruct molecular and morphological evolution of key genes and traits. Our current research projects focus on the evolution of conserved non-coding sequences, the development and evolution of floral sexuality, the development and evolution of awns and mechanisms of morphological diversification.

EDUCATION

PhD Plant Biology, 2010 - *University of California Berkeley, USA* / Advisor: Prof. Chelsea Specht
BSc (Hons) Genetics and Developmental Biology, 2005, with distinction - *University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.* / Advisor: Prof. Tracy McLellan
BSc Molecular and Cell Biology, 2004, with distinction - *University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024 – present *Research Professor.* Sainsbury Laboratory Cambridge University
2023 – 2024 *Professor.* Biology Department, University of Massachusetts Amherst.
2020 – 2023 *Associate Professor.* Biology Department, University of Massachusetts Amherst.
2019 – 2023 *Consultant.* Pairwise Plants, LLC
2019 – 2022 *Director.* Natural History Collections, University of Massachusetts Amherst
2014 – 2019 *Assistant Professor.* Biology Department, University of Massachusetts Amherst.
2010 – 2013 *Postdoctoral Fellow.* Biology Department, Brigham Young University
Advisor: Dr. Clinton Whipple
2005 – 2010 *Graduate Student Researcher,* Department of Plant and Microbial Biology, University of California Berkeley
2001 – 2005 *Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics Tutor,* Genius 1on1 Tuition, Johannesburg, South Africa
2004 *High School Chemistry and Physics Teacher,* British International College, South Africa

Prof. Dr. Nils Stein (organizer and host)