Date: Friday, 14 May 2021

Time: 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Speaker: Dr Kirsty Wan (University of Exeter)

Venue: Zoom

Title: Patterns of motility in single-celled organisms.

Abstract: How do organisms move? How do they control their movement? In this talk we will take a closer look at the secret lives of single-celled microorganisms. We will reveal how stereotyped behaviours and swimming trajectories emerge and persist even at the microscale, focusing on different species of biological microswimmers that make use of tiny appendages called cilia to swim and navigate through fluids.

Bio: Dr Kirsty Wan is a Senior Research Fellow and group leader at the Living Systems Institute, University of Exeter. She leads an interdisciplinary lab working primarily on the biomechanics of cilia and the hydrodynamics of self-propelled microswimmers. She received her undergraduate (mathematics) and PhD degrees (biological physics) from the University of Cambridge, UK, where she was also awarded a Nevile Research Fellowship from Magdalene College for her postdoctoral work. Recently, she received a 5-year ERC Starting Grant (2 million euros) from the European Union to investigate single-cell movement and the evolutionary origins of motility control.