Niraj Y Meisuria

PhD Candidate, The University of Sydney

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📍 **Sydney School of Veterinary Science, & School of Life and Environmental Science, The University of Sydney, Camperdown, 2006**



Education

2025 – 2028 Doctor of Philosophy (Disease Ecology) Sydney School of Veterinary Science, The University of Sydney

2020 – 2023 Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Animal and Veterinary Bioscience) (Honours Class I and The University Medal), The University of Sydney

Professional Positions Held

2026 – Current Founder and Chair – One Health and Wildlife Disease Ecology Special Interest Network, The Ecological Society of Australia

2024 – Current Casual Academic: Demonstrator – The University of Sydney

2024 – 2025 Tutor (Casual): Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme – The University of Sydney

2023 – 2025 Research Assistant – The University of Sydney, Global Ecology Lab

2021 – 2024 Learning Support Teacher – St Mary’s Cathedral College

Courses Taught

- BIOL1009 (From Molecules to Cells and Organisms) – First year Biology (2024, 2025)
- ENVX1002 (Introduction to Statistical Methods) – First year Statistics (2024)
- BIOL2021 (Zoology) – Second year Biology (2024, 2025)

Supervision

I currently co-supervise 3 Honours students

- Scavenging dynamics across an urban-remote gradient in tropical far North Queensland
- The Ecology of Decay: Scavenger Community Dynamics to Pig Carcass Presence and Removal in Tropical Queensland
- Free-roaming domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris)* as bridge scavengers across an urbanisation gradient in tropical north Queensland

Publications

- **Meisuria, N.Y.,** Spencer, E. E., Cairncross, R. J., Finnerty, P.B., Christensen, H.C., Ward, M.P, & Newsome, T. M. Dodging Dingoes, Chasing Calories: An Apex Scavenger Shapes Mesoscavenger Behaviour (SUBMITTED: Ecology)
- **Meisuria, N.Y.,** Cairncross, R. J., Spencer, E. E., Davies, E.M., Tischler, C., Finnerty, P.B., Crowther, M.S., Raubenheimer, D., & Newsome, T. M. Heads or tails: Selective body part feeding by scavengers across species and season Royal Society Open Science **(IF:3.0),** 13 (9): rsos260461
- **Meisuria, N.Y.,** Spencer, E. E., Cairncross, R. J., Hampton, J.O., Ward, M.P, & Newsome, T. M. The behaviour of an apex avian scavenger places them at risk for harmful lead exposure (UNDER REVIEW: 'Ecological Applications')
- Newsome, T. M., Cairncross, R. J., **Meisuria, N. Y.,** Finnerty, P. B., & Spencer, E. E. (2026). Spatiotemporal scavenging dynamics of introduced red foxes across distinct Australian ecosystems. Journal of Mammalogy **(IF 1.9)**, gyaf096.
- Barton, K. A., Finnerty, P. B., Rupasinghe, R., González-Crespo, C., Mahar, J. E., Eden, J.-S., **Meisuria, N. Y.,** Martínez-López, B., Newsome, T. M., Peel, A. J., Smith, J. A., & Brookes, V. J. (2025). The final frontier: Using carcasses for one health surveillance at the ecosystem interface. Frontiers in Veterinary Science **(IF: 2.9)**, 12.
- Newsome, T. M., Spencer, E. E., Dickman, C. R., Cairncross, R. J., **Meisuria, N. Y**., & Finnerty, P. B. (2025). Top hog not top dog? An invasive scavenger outcompetes native apex scavengers at carrion. Biological Invasions **(IF: 2.9)**, 28(1), 5.
- Finnerty, P. B., **Meisuria, N. Y.,** Baker, L. J., Cairncross, R. J., Spencer, E., Crowther, M. S., & Newsome, T. M. (2025). Carrion Increases Landscape-Scale Scavenger Activity and Interactions. Ecology and Evolution **(IF: 2.3)**, 15(8), e72059.
- Cairncross, R. J., Spencer, E. E., **Meisuria, N**., Crowther, M. S., & Newsome, T. M. (2024). Carrion use by a reptile is influenced by season, habitat and competition with an apex mammalian scavenger. Ecology and Evolution **(IF: 2.3)**, 14(8), e70211.
- Finnerty, P. B., Bonat, S., Spencer, E. E., Cairncross, R. J., **Meisuria, N**., Raña, A. F., Fust, C., Vandersteen, J., Dickman, C. R., Greenville, A., Barton, P. S., Crowther, M. S., McArthur, C., & Newsome, T. M. (2024). Brushing up on carcass consumption: Investigating spatiotemporal scavenging dynamics of brushtail possums in Australian ecosystems. Austral Ecology **(IF: 1.6)**, 49(10), e13598.
- **Meisuria, N**., Spencer, E. E., Cairncross, R. J., Crowther, M. S., & Newsome, T. M. (2024). Scavenging and social interaction of an apex avian scavenger is governed by bioregional and seasonal variation. Oikos **(IF: 3.1)**, e10826.

Membership and Activities in Professional Associations

- **2026 – Current** Founder and Chair – One Health and Wildlife Disease Ecology Special Interest Network, The Ecological Society of Australia

- **2025 – Current:** Member, Wildlife Disease Association (Australasian Chapter)
- **2023 – Current** Student Representative – Australasian Wildlife Management Society
- **2023 – Current:** Member, Royal Zoological Society of NSW

Scholarships, Grants, and Awards

- **2026: One Health Investigation Fund, Wildlife Health Australia** (42,000 AUD), **Co-PI**
- **2026:** Animal Disease Genomics Initiative (30,000 AUD), **Co-PI**
- **2025 – 2028:** University of Sydney Postgraduate Award PhD Scholarship
- **2025 – 2028:** University of Sydney Postgraduate Research Supplementary Scholarship in Disease Ecology and Spillover Risk
- **2024:** International Society for Behavioural Ecology Travel Grant ($1200 USD)
- **2024:** Faculty of Science Teacher Commendation Award (The University of Sydney)
- **2023:** The University Medal (The University of Sydney)
- **2023:** Dean's List of Excellence in Academic Performance (The University of Sydney)
- **2023:** University of Sydney Academic Merit Prize
- **2023:** University of Sydney Honours Scholarship ($6000 AUD)
- **2022:** Australasian Wildlife Management Society Honours and Undergraduate Student Travel Scholarship ($3000 AUD)
- **2021:** John Gurner & Frederick Ebsworth Award in Animal Energetics and Homeostasis (School of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Sydney) ($480 AUD)

SCIENCE OUTREACH, MEDIA, & INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- **2025:** Wildlife Disease Association Podcast (Wildlife Health Talks) Episode #73 Niraj and The Carcass Café: How Carrion Shapes Wildlife Disease Risk
- **2026:** One Health Wonders Webinar 21/04/2026 One Health and biodiversity threats of plague proportions (Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) & CSIRO)

Conference Presentations

- **2023:** The scavenging dynamics and social interactions of the wedge-tailed eagle across 3 contrasting Australian bioregions, *Australasian Wildlife Management Society*, Melbourne, Australia
- **2024:** The scavenging dynamics and social interactions of the wedge-tailed eagle, *International Society of Behavioural Ecology Congress,* Melbourne, Australia

- **2024:** The scavenging dynamics and social interactions of the wedge-tailed eagle, *Ecological Society of Australia,* Melbourne, Australia
- **2025:** Carrion – A disease risk? *Wildlife Disease Association, Australasian Chapter,* Adelaide, Australia
- **2025:** Carrion – A disease risk? *Ecological Society of Australia,* Adelaide, Australia
- **2025:** Carrion – A disease risk? *Australasian Wildlife Management Society,* Queenstown, New Zealand
- **2026:** Carrion: Consumption, Competition, and Contamination, *Gordon Research Conference* [Poster], Lucca, Italy
- **2027 INVITED:** The role of carrion in disease dynamics and its potential to bridge the wild-domestic interface, *International Mammal Conference,* Bonito, Brazil
- **2027 INVITED:** Disease and One Health risks of feral pig scavenging activity in Australia, *National Feral Pig Conference*, Sunshine Coast, Australia

Courses and Distinctions

- Remote First Aid Certificate (2025) St John Ambulance
- Operate four-wheel drive vehicle on unsealed roads (2025) Getabout Training Services
- Perform complex four-wheel drive operations (2025) Getabout Training Services

Other Interests

- Football (soccer), Cricket, Gym, Wildlife Photography