

# Gerrit B. Nanninga

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**Profile:** Marine Ecologist with 20 years of global experience in coral reef research, restoration and education. Successful track record of coordinating international research programs. Having lived and worked in over 10 countries across five continents, I bring a truly global perspective and strong cross-cultural communication skills. Passionate about applying my expertise to advance marine conservation.

## 👤 PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Tropical marine fieldwork coordination
- Coral reef restoration planning & implementation
- Marine research & monitoring
- Team management
- Teaching and outreach
- Funding acquisition

## 👤 WORK HISTORY

- 06/2024 – now      **Principal Investigator (German Research Foundation) at Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität (LMU), Munich, Germany**  
Enhancing coral reef restoration using sensory enrichment
- 05/2024 – now      **Coral Reef Ecologist at rreefs, Zurich, Switzerland**  
rreefs develops 3D printed modular artificial clay structures to regenerate degraded coral reef ecosystems globally. Responsibilities: project planning and implementation, ecological monitoring, data analysis.
- 08/2022 – 04/2024      **Senior Marine Ecologist at The Yas SeaWorld Research & Rescue Center, Abu Dhabi, UAE**  
Development and implementation of the Center's coral reef research and restoration program in the Arabian Gulf; team management
- 05/2019 – 06/2022      **Lecturer (Asst. Prof.) in Tropical Marine Biology at the University of Essex (UoE), UK**  
Tropical marine research; curriculum development; student supervision; online-, classroom- and field-teaching; administration
- 04/2016 – 04/2019      **Marie Curie Postdoctoral fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK and National Marine Science Centre, Southern Cross University, Australia**  
Phenotypic variation in microplastic impacts in juvenile fishes
- 04/2015 – 02/2016      **Postdoctoral fellow at the French National Centre for Scientific Research, CRILOBE USR 3278 Laboratoire d'Excellence "CORAIL", University of Perpignan**  
Larval dispersal phenotypes in coral reef fishes
- 02/2014 – 01/2015      **Postdoctoral fellow at the Red Sea Research Center, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia**  
Drivers of population connectivity in reef fishes of the Red Sea
- 09/2009 – 06/2010      **Marine Research Technician at Coastal and Marine Resources Core Lab, KAUST, Saudi Arabia**  
Academic fieldwork facilitation, permitting, administration

## EDUCATION

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- 07/2010 – 12/2013 **PhD – Red Sea Research Center, KAUST, Saudi Arabia**  
*Thesis: Larval fish dispersal in the Red Sea*
- 05/2004 – 11/2006 **MSc – Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT), University of Bremen, Germany**  
*Thesis: Patterns of bioerosion on coral reefs in the Andaman Sea*
- 01/2001 – 11/2003 **BSc (Marine Biology) – James Cook University, Townsville, Australia**

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 2024 – now **Principal Investigator (PI) on coral reef restoration project:** enhancing reef restoration by chemosensory enrichment to boost larval recruitment; *Germany, Maldives*
- 2024 – now **Co-investigator (CI) on reef restoration projects:** implementation and ecological monitoring of artificial clay reefs; *Philippines, Maldives, Columbia, Ecuador*
- 2022 – 2024 **PI on eDNA project:** Marine biodiversity assessment in the Arabian Gulf; *UAE*
- 2022 – 2024 **PI on coral reef restoration research project:** pilot studies on chemical enrichment to boost larval settlement on artificial reefs; *UAE, Maldives*
- 2016 – 2019 **PI on international behavioural ecology project:** Microplastic ingestion variation in juvenile fishes; *Australia, Israel, UK*
- 2015 – 2016 **CI on reef ecology project:** behavioural and morphological determinants of larval dispersal strategies; *French Polynesia*
- 2009 – 2014 **PI and CI on numerous research projects in the Red Sea:** collections and genetic analyses of reef fishes and invertebrates, larval connectivity modelling, underwater visual census, acoustic and satellite tagging of sharks and manta rays, fish market and long-line surveys of sharks, Baited Remote Underwater Video Surveys (BRUVS); *Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Djibouti*
- 2011 – 2013 **CI on coral reef ecology project:** Using genetic parentage analysis to investigate patterns of larval fish dispersal; *Papua New Guinea*
- 2012 **CI on research expedition:** field collections of reef fish tissue samples, satellite-tagging of manta rays; *Republic of Kiribati*

## TEAM MANAGEMENT

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- 2024 – now **Coordination of local field teams and students during reef restoration**  
LMU, Germany; rreefs, Switzerland; Philippines & Maldives
- 2022 – 2024 **Management of a team of 4** (1 researcher, 1 field- and 2 laboratory-technicians)  
The Yas SeaWorld Research and Rescue Center, UAE
- 2020 – 2022 **Supervision of student groups (8–20) in remote field courses**  
University of Essex, UK
- 2016 – 2019 **Coordination of scientific team across multiple countries**  
(i.e., Australia, Israel, UK); University of Cambridge, UK
- 2015 – 2016 **Coordination of teams of researchers, students and volunteers**  
CRIOBE, French Polynesia
- 2009 – 2013 **Coordination of teams of researchers, students and volunteers**  
KAUST, Saudi Arabia

## PUBLICATIONS & REVIEW

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- Author of >20 peer-reviewed scientific articles (e.g., Nature Ecology and Evolution, Molecular Ecology, Journal of Hazardous Materials; h-index = 15)  
[google scholar link](#)
- Reviewer for scientific manuscripts (29 verified reviews)
- Invited Member of the British Ecological Society Review College

## GRANTS & AWARDS

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2024	Principal Investigator Position, German Research Foundation	\$310.400
2017	Marine Ecology Research Centre Equipment Grant, SCU	\$6100
2016	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship, European Commission	\$320.000
2015	Postdoctoral Fellowship, German Research Foundation	\$98.000
2013	Competitive Research Grant Program, KAUST	\$255.000
2011	Academic Excellence Award, KAUST	\$5000
2005	Research Grant, German Technical Corporation (GTZ)	\$7400
		<b>Total: \$1.001.900</b>

## QUALIFICATIONS

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- **Open circuit diving:** PADI Rescue Diver, Nitrox certified (>900 logged dives)
- **Closed circuit diving:** O2ptima rebreather certified (55 dives)
- Commercial Drone License; International Drivers and Boat Licenses; Forklift certificate
- **Languages:** English ●●●●● German ●●●●● French ●●●

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 43rd Annual Larval Fish Conference, 21-24 May 2019, Mallorca, Spain
- International Society for Behavioural Ecology Meeting, 11-16 Aug 2018, Minneapolis, USA
- European Coral Reef Symposium, 13-15 Dec 2017, Oxford, UK (*Session Chair*)
- Coral Reefs of Arabia, 15-17 Feb 2015, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- Asia-Pacific Coral Reefs Symposium, 23-27 Jun 2014, Kenting, Taiwan
- Ocean Science Meeting, 23-28 Feb 2014, Honolulu, USA
- Indopacific Fish Conference, 24-28 Jun 2013, Naha, Japan
- 37th Annual Larval Fish Conference, 2-6 Jun 2013, Miami, USA
- International Coral Reef Symposium, 9-13 Jul 2012, Cairns, Australia
- ICES/PICES Conference for Early Career Scientists, 24-27 Apr 2012, Calvià, Spain
- International Society for Reef Studies, 13-17 Dec 2010, Wageningen, Netherlands

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- 2022 – 2024 **Training and education workshops** in Marine Biology for the YSWRR Education Team; Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2019 – 2022 **Module Leader (curriculum development and course delivery)**, UoE
- Coral Reef Biology [BS255-5-SP](#)
  - Tropical Marine Systems [BS706-7-AU](#)
  - Tropical Marine Field Research Skills [BS256-5-AP](#) & [BS710-7-AP](#)  
(4-week Field Courses in underwater research techniques and project planning; Croatia and Indonesia)
- 2013 – now **Student supervision:** 2 PhD, 9 MSc, and 14 BSc project students

## HONORARY ACTIVITIES

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2022 – 2024	<b>Chairperson of Animal Ethics Committee</b> , YSWRR
2020 – 2022	<b>Fieldwork Safety Supervisor</b> , University of Essex
2020 – 2022	<b>Organiser of Life Sciences Seminar Series</b> , University of Essex
2015 – 2024	<b>Delivery of public seminars</b> on coral reef ecology, global change and/or marine pollution in Australia, French Polynesia, UAE, and UK
2011 – 2014	<b>Co-organiser of Red Sea Research Center Seminar Series</b> , KAUST
2010	<b>Coordination of training and education workshops</b> on environmental awareness and sustainable practices for local fishermen; Saudi Arabian Red Sea coast

## REFERENCES

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**Prof. Andrea Manica**  
Department of Zoology  
University of Cambridge  
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**Prof. David Smith**  
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