



Zenith

INTERNATIONAL PHD PROGRAM IN NEUROSCIENCE

FRIDAY, 8 JANUARY 2021
AT 5:00 PM (CET)

SYLVIE RETAUX
PARIS-SACLAY INSTITUTE OF NEUROSCIENCE
GIF-SUR-YVETTE, FRANCE



ZENITH SEMINARS

A BLIND CAVEFISH TO UNDERSTAND THE EVOLUTION OF BRAIN AND BEHAVIORS

How do organisms evolve and adapt to their environment?

I will use the fish model *Astyanax mexicanus* to illustrate some of the mechanisms at play, through comparative analyses between the “normal” river-dwelling morph and the blind cave-dwelling morph of this single species.

I will focus on the loss of eyes and vision and the sensory compensations that underlie cavefish adaptation. I will show the insights on the general principles of brain evolution we can get through the combination of different approaches, from evolutionary developmental biology (evo-devo) to fieldwork.

Sylvie Rétaux received her PhD in Neuroscience from University Paris VI. She was a Postdoctoral Fellow (EMBO fellowship) in the laboratory of William A. Harris at University of California San Diego (UCSD), USA. Sylvie then returned to France to work as a researcher at CNRS. Currently she is a CNRS Research Director and the Head of the Department Developmental Neuroscience at the Neuroscience Paris-Saclay Institute.

TO JOIN THE SEMINAR, PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#)