

# Chao-Yang Kuo, Ph.D.

## Postdoctoral Research Associate

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### *Current position*

**Postdoctoral Research Associate** (01/2019 -), Biodiversity Research Center, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

I am a proactive marine biologist and SCUBA diving instructor who is interested in understanding the dynamics of the coral reef ecosystems, and applying the knowledge to improve the management strategies for sustainability. I've been working on different levels of reef ecology, from single species to communities and applications, including (1) the demography approach on the critically-endangered coral *Polycyathus chaishanensis*; (2) a 15+ years long-term ecological research (LTER) to monitor the dynamics of the coral community under multiple disturbances; (3) evaluating and re-designing the zoning system of Kenting National Park, Taiwan, which set the protected area launched in 2018; and (4) improving the management decision by incorporating coral trait-based approaches and evaluating the feasibility of different survey methods on coral communities. Currently, we are documenting the 2020 on-going massive bleaching event, which is the worst in Taiwan since the 90s.

### *Education*

**Ph.D.** 05/2013 – 10/2017

- ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, James Cook University. Townsville, Australia
- **Thesis:** Adaptive strategies in reef-building corals

**Master of Science** 09/2004 – 05/2007

- Institute of Marine Biology, National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
- **Thesis:** The structure and variation of benthic communities in coral reefs of southern Taiwan

**B.S. Marine Resources** 09/1999 – 06/2004

- Department of Marine Resources, National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

### *Academic employment*

**Postdoctoral Fellow** (11/2017 - 12/2018), Biodiversity Research Center, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

**Senior Research Officer** (09/2012 - 01/2013), Department of Biological Science, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

**Research Assistant** (02/2012 - 08/2012), ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, James Cook University. Townsville, Australia

**Research Assistant** (03/2008 - 12/2011), Coral Reef Evolutionary Ecology and Genetics Laboratory, Biodiversity Research Center, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

**Part time research assistant** (07/2003 - 05/2007), Coral Lab, National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, Taiwan

### *Projects involved*

#### • Taiwan

(2020 - present)

- The 2020 mass bleaching event in Taiwan
  - Role played in the project: The chief scientist who initiated, designed the research plan, and the project coordinator as well as the team leader in the field.

- Testing deep reef refugia hypothesis by examining reproductive potentials, modes, and connectivity of mesophotic corals in Green Island, Taiwan
    - Role played in the project: The chief scientist who designed the research plan, wrote the proposal for applying the MOST (Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan) funding, and lead the team to conduct the project.
- (2019 – present)
- Impact of climate change and coral reef governance: a holistic approach using the Green Island as model system in Taiwan
    - Role played in the project: The chief scientist who designed and wrote the research plan of the sub-project for applying the funding founded by Academia Sinica, the project coordinator of this project crossing three different disciplines, and the team leader in the field of sub-project.
- (2003 – present)
- Long-term ecological monitoring and studies of human activities on the marine ecosystem of Kenting National Park
    - Role played in the project: The chief scientist who wrote the proposal for applying the funding, and led the team to conduct the project.
- (2019)
- The current status and the development of the most suitable survey method of the coral reef ecosystem in Taiwan.
    - Role played in the project: The chief scientist who design the research plan, wrote the proposal for applying the funding, and led the team to conduct the project.
- The status of coral reef ecosystem in Taiping Island.
    - Role played in the project: The chief scientist who supervise the research assistant for writing the proposal and reports, led the team to conduct the research in the field.
- (2018)
- The correlation among the spatial and temporal variation of environmental factors, the community dynamic of crustose coralline algae (CCA), and the population biology of *Polycyathus chaishanensis* on algae reefs in Guanyin and Xinwu, Taoyuan County, Taiwan
    - Role played in the project: The chief scientist who designed and wrote the research plan of the sub-project for applying the funding founded by Forestry Bureau, Taiwan, the project coordinator of this project crossing six different disciplines, and the team leader in the field of sub-project.
- (2014)
- Evaluating and re-designing the zoning system of Kenting National Park, Taiwan.
    - Role played in the project: The chief scientist who designed the research plan, the project coordinator as well as the team leader in the field.
- (2009 – 2010)
- Natural resources surveying on the coral reef in Tiao-shi marine protected area of Kenting National Park
    - Role played in the project: The chief scientist who designed the research plan, the project coordinator as well as the team leader in the field.
- Restoration assessment of coral community in Dongsha Atoll
    - Role played in the project: The research assistant who collected the data and wrote the report.

(2008-2009)

- The cold shock effect in coral reef communities in Penghu, Taiwan
  - Role played in the project: The volunteer who helps the chief scientist for collecting and analyzing the data.

(2008)

- Spatial variation of the cyanobacterisponge, *Terpios hoshinota*, outbreak on the coral reefs in Green Island
  - Role played in the project: The research assistant who collected the data and wrote the report.

(07/2003 - 05/2007)

- Spawning pattern of brooding corals
- Underwater monitoring system
- Coral specimen collection and transplantation
- Coral community status assessment using Deterioration Index (DI index)
- Photosynthesis rate of larva and adult colony of scleractinian corals

- **Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) East Asia Note**

(2017 - present)

- Status and trends of coral reefs in East Asia in the past three decades  
Involved as the local expert in the data analysis taskforce team
  - Role played in the project: The regional expert in the taskforce group.

- **Australia**

(05/2013 - 10/2017)

- **PhD project: Adaptive strategies in reef-building corals**
  - a) A test of the Universal Adaptive Strategy Theory (UAST) in reef-building corals
  - b) Fifteen years of changes in the abundance of corals on inshore reefs in the central Great Barrier Reef: a test of adaptive strategy theory
  - c) Latitude variation in the relative abundance of adaptive-strategies in coral assemblages

(04/2016)

- The National Coral Bleaching Taskforce, Australia
  - Role played in the project: The member of the ground truth survey team.

(02/2012 – 08/2012)

- Long-term changes in the assemblage structure of inshore coral assemblages in the Central Great Barrier Reef
  - Role played in the project: The research assistant who helped for collecting the data.

(09/2012 – 01/2013)

- Understanding and predicting southward range expansions of corals in New South Wales, Australia
  - Role played in the project: The research assistant who organized the field trip.

## Publications

### Published

- Ho, M. J. #, **C. Y. Kuo**#, H. Y. Wu, M. S. Jeng, S. W. Shyue, C. A. Chen. Fishing pressure occurs down to the lower mesophotic coral ecosystem in Lyudao, Taiwan. *Galaxea*: accepted (**co-first author**)
- **Kuo, C. Y.**, S. Keshavmurthy, A. Chung, Y. Y. Huang, S. Y. Yang, Y. C. Chen, C. A. Chen. 2020. Demographic census confirms a stable population of the critically-endangered caryophyllia coral *Polycyathus chaishanensis* (Scleractinia; Caryophyllidae) in the Datan Algal Reef, Taiwan. *Sci Rep* 10:10585. doi:// doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-67653-8
- Huang, Y. Y., R., Carballo-Bolaños, **C. Y. Kuo**, S. Keshavmurthy, C. A. Chen (2020) *Leptoria phrygia* in Southern Taiwan shuffles and switches symbionts to resist thermal-induced bleaching. *Sci Rep* 10: 7808. doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-64749-z
- Bridge, T. C. L., O. J. Luiz, **C. Y. Kuo**, K. Precoda, E. M. P. Madin, J. S. Madin, A. H. Baird. 2020. Incongruence between life history traits and conservation status in reef corals. *Coral Reefs* 39: 271-279. doi.org/10.1007/s00338-019-01885-7
- Keshavmurthy, S.#, **C. Y. Kuo**#, Y. Y. Huang, R. Carballo-Bolaños, P. J. Meng, J. T. Wang, C. A. Chen. 2019. Coral reef resilience in Taiwan: Lessons from long-term ecological research on the coral reefs of Kenting National Park (Taiwan). *J. Mar. Sci. Eng.* 7: 388. doi:10.3390/jmse7110388 (**co-first author**)
- **Kuo, C. Y.**, A. Chung, S. Keshavmurthy, Y. Y. Huang, C. A. Chen. 2019. Lonely giant on the sand: unexpected massive Taiwanese coral, *Polycyathus chaishanensis* in the Datan algal reef demands a conservation focus. *Galaxea* 21: 11-12. doi.org/10.3755/galaxea.21.1\_11
- Darling, E. S., T. R. McClanahan, J. Maina, ..... **C. Y. Kuo**, ....., D Mouillot. 2019. Social-environmental drivers inform strategic management of coral reefs in the Anthropocene. *Nat. Ecol. Evol.* 3(9): 1341-1350. doi.org/10.1038/s41559-019-0953-8
- Pratchett, M. S., A. S. Hoey, C. H. Tan, **C. Y. Kuo**, A. G. Bauman, R. Kumaraswamy, A. H. Baird. 2019. Spatial and temporal variation in fecundity of *Acropora* spp. In the Northern Great Barrier Reef. *Diversity* 11(4):60. doi.org/10.3390/d11040060
- Baird, A. H., J. S. Madin, M. Álvarez-Noriega,.....**C. Y. Kuo**, T. P. Hughes. 2018. A decline in bleaching suggests that depth can provide a refuge from global warming in most coral taxa. *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.* 603:257-264. doi.org/10.3354/meps12732
- **Kuo, C. Y.**, M. J. Ho, Y. C. Chen, S. Y. Yang, Y. Y. Huang, H. J. Hsieh, M. S. Jeng, C. A. Chen. 2018. Summary of coral bleaching from 2014 to 2017 in Taiwan. In: Kimura T, Tun K, Chou LM (ed.) *Status of Coral Reefs in East Asian Seas Region: 2018*. Ministry of Environment, Japan.
- Dornelas, M., L. H. Antão, F. Moyes, ....., **C. Y. Kuo**,....., K. Zawada. 2018. BioTIME; A database of biodiversity time series for the Anthropocene. *Global Ecol. Biogeogr.* 00:1–26. doi.org/10.1111/geb.12729
- McWilliam, M., M. O Hoogenboom , A. H. Baird , **C. Y. Kuo**, J. S. Madin, T. P. Hughes. 2018. Biogeographical disparity in the functional diversity and redundancy of corals. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* 115:3084-3089
- Denis, V., L. Ribas-Deulofeu, N. Sturaro, **C. Y. Kuo**, C. A. Chen. 2017. A functional approach to the structural complexity of coral assemblages based on colony morphological features. *Sci. Rep.* 7:9849. doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-10334-w
- Hughes, T. P., J. T. Kerry, K. D. Anderson, ....., **C. Y. Kuo**,....., S. K. Wilson. 2017. Global warming and recurrent mass bleaching on corals. *Nature* 543(7645): 373-377
- Keshavmurthy, S., K. H. Tang, C. M. Hsu, C. H. Gan, **C. Y. Kuo**, K. Soong, H. N. Chou, C. A. Chen. 2017. Symbiodinium spp. associated with scleractinian corals from Dongsha Atoll (Pratas), Taiwan, in the South China Sea. *Peer J* 5:e2871
- Ribas-Deulofeu, L., V. Denis, S. de. Palmas, **C. Y. Kuo**, H. J. Hsieh, C. A. Chen. 2016. Structure of benthic communities along the Taiwan latitudinal gradient. *PloS ONE* 11(8) e0160601
- Madin, J. S., K. D. Anderson, M. H. Andreasen, ....., **C. Y. Kuo**, ....., A. H. Baird. 2016. The Coral Trait Database, a curated database of trait information for coral species from the global oceans. *Sci. Data* 3: 160017
- Ho, M. J., N. Y. Cheng, Y. C. Chen, **C. Y. Kuo**, C. K. C. Wen, K. L. Cherh, C. A. Chen. 2016. Investigating current status of benthic ecology in the Kenting National Park Marine Zones, Taiwan. *J. Natl. Park* 26(1): 46-56 (in Chinese with English abstract)

- **Kuo, C. Y.**, T. Y. Fan, H. H. Li, C. W. Lin, L. L. Liu and F. W. Kuo. 2015. An unusual bloom of the tunicate, *Pyrosoma atlanticum*, in southern Taiwan. *Bull. Mar. Sci.* 91(3). doi.org/10.5343/bms.2014.1090.
- Madin, J. S., **C. Y. Kuo**, J. C. Martinelli, T. Mizerek and A. H. Baird. 2015. Very high coral cover at 36°S on the east coast of Australia. *Coral Reefs* 34(1). doi.org/10.1007/s00338-014-1248-9.
- Kuo, F. W., **C. Y. Kuo**, T. Y. Fan, M. C. Liu and C. A. Chen. 2015. Hidden ecosystem function of rabbitfishes? *Siganus fuscescens* feeds on the soft coral, *Sarcophyton* sp. *Coral Reefs* 34(1): 57. doi.org/10.1007/s00338-014-1250-2
- Wang, J. T., C. M. Hsu, **C. Y. Kuo**, P. J. Meng, S. J. Kao and C. A. Chen. 2015. Physiological outperformance at the morphologically-transformed edge of the cyanobacteriosponge *Terpios hoshinota* (Suberitidae: Hadromerida) when confronting opponent corals. *PLoS ONE* 10(6): e0131509. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0131509.
- Hsu, C. M., S. de Palmas, **C. Y. Kuo**, V. Denis and C. A. Chen. 2014. Identification of scleractinian coral recruits using fluorescent censusing and DNA barcoding techniques. *PLoS ONE* 09/2014; 9(9): e107366. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0107366.
- Keshavmurthy, S., P. J. Meng, J. T. Wang, **C. Y. Kuo**, S. Y. Yang, C. M. Hsu, C. H. Gan, C. F. Dai and C. A. Chen. 2014. Can resistant coral-Symbiodinium associations enable coral communities to survive climate change? A study of a site exposed to long-term hot water input. *Peer J* 04/2014; 2(7): e327. doi.org/10.7717/peerj.327
- Denis, V., T. Mezaki, K. Tanaka, **C. Y. Kuo**, S. de Palmas, S. Keshavmurthy, C. A. Chen. 2013. Coverage, diversity, and functionality of a high-latitude coral community (Tatsukushi, Shikoku Island, Japan). *PLoS ONE* 8(1): e54330. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0054330.
- **Kuo, C. Y.**, Y. S. Yuen, P. J. Meng, P. H. Ho, J. T. Wang, P. L. Liu, Y. C. Chang, C. F. Dai, T. Y. Fan, H. J. Lin, and C. A. Chen. 2012. Recurrent disturbances and the degradation of hard coral communities in Taiwan. *PLoS ONE* 7(8): e44364. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0044364.
- Fontana, S., S. Keshavmurthy, H. J. Hsieh, V. Denis, **C. Y. Kuo**, C. M. Hsu, J. K. L. Leung, W. S. Tsai, C. C. Wallace and C. A. Chen. 2012. Molecular evidence shows low species diversity of coral-associated hydroids in *Acropora* Corals. *PLoS ONE* 7(11): e50130. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0050130.
- Hsu, C. M., S. Keshavmurthy, V. Denis, **C. Y. Kuo**, J. T. Wang, and C. A. Chen. 2012. Temporal and spatial variations of symbiont communities in catch bowl coral, *Isopora palifera* (Scleractinia; Acroporidae), at reefs in Kenting National Park, Taiwan. *Zool. Stud.* 51(8): 1343-1353
- Keshavmurthy, S., C. M. Hsu, **C. Y. Kuo**, P. J. Meng, J. T. Wang, and C. A. Chen. 2012. Symbiont community and host genetic structure of the brain coral, *Platygyra verweyi*, in the outlet of a nuclear power plant and adjacent areas. *Mol. Ecol.* doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-294X.2012.05704.x.
- Keshavmurthy S.#, C. M. Hsu#, **C. Y. Kuo**#, V. Denis, K. L. J. Leung, S. Fontana, H. J. Hsieh, W. S. Tsai, W. C. Su, and C. A. Chen. 2012. Larval development in fertilized “pseudogynodioecious” eggs suggests a sexual pattern of gynodioecy in *Galaxea fascicularis* (Scleractinia; Euphyllidae). *Zool. Stud.* 51(2):143-149 (**co-first author**).
- **Kuo, C. Y.**, P. J. Meng, P. H. Ho, J. T. Wang, J. P. Chen, Y. W. Chiu, H. J. Lin, Y. C. Chang, T. Y. Fan, and C. A. Chen. 2011. Damage to the reefs of Siangjiao Bay Marine Protected Area in Kenting National Park, Taiwan during typhoon Morakot. *Zool. Stud.* 50(1): 85.
- Chen, S. L., **C. Y. Kuo**, and C. A. Chen. 2009. Spatial Distribution and temporal variation of the cyanobacteriosponge, *Terpios hoshinoota*, and benthos composition on the coral reefs of Green Island. *J. Natl. Park* 19(4): 32-45 (in Chinese with English abstract)
- Tang, P. C., C. M. Hsu, **C. Y. Kuo**, and C. A. Chen. 2009. An unexpectedly high *Acropora* species diversity at the inlet of a nuclear power plant within Kenting National Park, Southern Taiwan. *Zool. Stud.* 49(1): 71.

#### Submitted

- Bang, Ah. H. Y.#, **C. Y. Kuo**#, M. J. Ho., N. Y. Cheng, Y. J. C. K. C. Wen, K. L. Cherh, C. A. Chen. A multi-approach evaluation of resilience frameworks for coral reef conservation. Submitted (**co-first author**).

## In preparation

- **Kuo, C. Y.**<sup>□</sup>, A. H. Baird, P. A. Marshall, M. S. Pratchett, J. S. Madin. Fifteen years of changes in the abundance of corals on inshore reefs in the Central Great Barrier Reefs: a test of adaptive strategy theory. **(Corresponding author).**
- **Kuo, C. Y.**<sup>□</sup>, J. S. Madin, A. H. Baird. Adaptive strategies schemes for scleractinian corals are idiosyncratic and inconsistent. **(Corresponding author).**
- **Kuo, C. Y.**, M. J. Ho, Y. J. Chen, A. C. Chung, N. Y. Cheng, T. Y. Fan, A. H. Baird, C. A. Chen. Die-hard coral assemblages in Kenting National Park, Taiwan.
- **Kuo, C. Y.**, Y. J. Chen, A. C. Chung, Y. Y. Huang, S. Y. Yang, C. Y. Liu, C. A. Chen. Datan Algal Reef, Taiwan, the future of coral reefs.

## Popular science article

- 馮加伶, 郭兆揚。2016。白化來襲! 大堡礁 93% 礁體白化 西澳珊瑚也遭殃。環境資訊電子報 <https://e-info.org.tw/node/114890> #本文被國家地理雜誌中文版網頁轉載 <https://www.natgeomedia.com/environment/article/content-5081.html>

## Conference presentations

- **Kuo, C. Y.** Trait-based approaches: the alternative strategies seeking the information hidden behind coral cover. **Invited Keynote speaker.** Young Marine Scientist Symposium 2019. National University of Singapore, Singapore, June 2019.
- **Kuo, C. Y.**, M. J. Ho, Y. J. Chen, A. C. Chung, N. Y. Cheng, T. Y. Fan, and C. A. Chen. Die-hard coral assemblages in Kenting National Park, Taiwan. Fourth Asia-Pacific Coral Reef Symposium. Cebu, the Philippines, June 2018.
- **Kuo, C. Y.**, A. H. Baird, P. A. Marshall, M. S. Pratchett, and J. S. Madin. Fifteen years of change in the abundance of corals on inshore reefs in the Central Great Barrier Reef: a test of adaptive strategy theory. Fifteen minute talk. Australian Coral Reef Society Conference. Townsville, August 2017.
- **Kuo, C. Y.**, J. S. Madin, A. H. Baird. Adaptive strategies of scleractinian corals. Fifteen minute talk. 13th International Coral Reef Symposium. Hawaii, June 2016.
- **Kuo, C. Y.**, J. S. Madin, A. H. Baird. Adaptive strategies of scleractinian corals. Poster presentation. Australian Coral Reef Society Conference. Daydream Island, Airlie Beach, July 2015.
- **Kuo, C. Y.**, W. L. Sheu, P. T. Liu, C. J. Chen, S. C. Ma, C. L. Tsai, H. C. Chang, W. H. Hsu and C. A. Chen. Mitigation role of national park in assisting coral reef resistance to ocean change: a 30-year study on coral communities of the Kenting National Park, Taiwan. Twelve minute talk. International Union for Conservation of Nature, World Parks Congress, Sydney, November 2014.
- **Kuo, C. Y.**, A. H. Baird, P. A. Marshall, M. S. Pratchett, and J. S. Madin. Fifteen years of change in coral assemblage structure following multiples disturbances on inshore fringing reefs on the central Great Barrier Reef. Fifteen minute talk. Third Asia-Pacific Coral Reef Symposium, Kenting, Taiwan, June 2014.
- **Kuo, C. Y.**, A. H. Baird, P. A. Marshall, M. S. Pratchett, and J. S. Madin. Fifteen years of change in coral assemblage structure following multiples disturbances on inshore fringing reefs on the central Great Barrier Reef. Fifteen minute talk. Australian Coral Reef Society Conference. Sydney, August 2013.
- **Kuo, C. Y.** Long-term changes of coral reefs in Kenting National Park, Taiwan. Fifteen minute talk. 12th International Coral Reef Symposium. Cairns, July 2012.
- **Kuo, C. Y.**, P. J. Meng, P. H. Ho, J. T. Wang, J. P. Chen, Y. W. Chiu, H. J. Lin, Y. C. Chang, T. Y. Fan, and C. A. Chen. Have the coral reefs in Kenting National Park lost their capability to be ecologically resilient? Fifteen minute talk. Second Asia-Pacific Coral Reef Symposium. Phuket, June 2010.

## ***Grants and Awards***

- General postdoctoral fellowship, Academia Sinica, Taiwan (2019 - 2020)
- My Research in 3 minutes, higher degree by research category, James Cook University, Australia. 2016 finalist representing ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies.
- ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, Graduate Research Scheme (GRS) 2015. AUD \$1,102
- ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, Graduate Research Scheme (GRS) 2014. AUD \$1,500
- Student travel award of Australian Coral Reef Society annual conference, 2015
- Student award of 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Pacific Coral Reef Symposium, 2014
- James Cook University Postgraduate Research Scholarship (2013 - 2015)
- Financial support of registration fee of 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Pacific Coral Reef Symposium, 2010

## ***Professional diving certificates***

- Reef Check Foundation  
Reef Check Eco-diver trainer (#Malaysia/EcoDiver Trainer/99)
- The National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI #53171)  
Diving Instructor  
Enriched Air Nitrox Instructor  
First Aid Instructor  
Citizen Science Diving Instructor  
Underwater Naturalist Diving Instructor
- World Confederation of Underwater Activities (C.M.A.S)  
Trimix diver (#TPEF02PT102014778)  
Trimix gas blender (#TPEF02T102009455)
- Technical Diving International (TDI)  
CCR (Megalodon) Air Diluent decompression diver (#955396)
- The International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers (IANTD)  
Open water DPV Diver (#208063)

## ***Skills and licenses***

- Taiwan Motor Boat Driving license (2009 to present),  
QLD Australia Marine License (02/2012 to present)

## ***Outreaches***

- Mentoring local NGO-Taiwan Lóo-Kóo Yu (台灣佬咕嶼協會) establishing coral reef monitoring programs. (2019)
- Team scientist of the Reef Check activities organized by Taiwan Environmental Information Association, TEIA. (2009~2011)

## *References*

- Dr. Chen, Chaolun Allen  
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