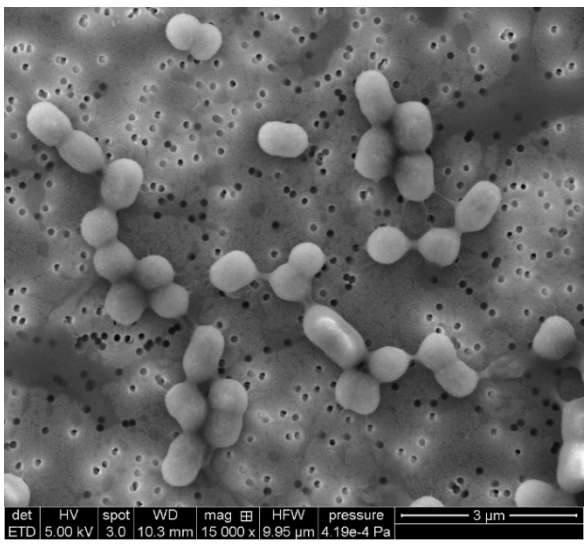
Science Outreach – Athabasca presents…

The Microplastics in our Rivers and their Microbes

Speaker: Srijak Bhatnagar, Assistant Professor, Comp Biology and Microbial Ecology
Date: February 11, 2025
Time: 7 PM to 8 PM
Place: Athabasca University Governing Council Chambers
1 University Drive, Athabasca, Alberta



Srijak Bhatnagar is an Assistant Professor, Computational Biology and Microbial Ecology at Athabasca University. His Enviromics Research Group studies microbes associated with the impact of humans on the environment, like microplastics, herbicides, and oil spills. He used DNA-based tools to identify the microbes and their capabilities so they could be used for environmental cleanup and restoration. His research spans from Crowsnest Highway in southern Alberta to Bigstone Cree Nation in northern Alberta to far north in the Arctic and everything in between. For the last few years, he has been studying the microplastics in Alberta's rivers to understand our impact on the rivers and the potential impact of microplastics on us. How much microplastics is in our rivers when it enters the town and when it leaves the town? What are the microbes on these microplastics? Are they different on the surface of the water and at the bottom of the river? What are these microbes doing? Are they good or are they bad? Can they eat the plastic? These are some of the questions that his research is trying to answer.

Free community event! This will be an in person and virtual event. Events may be photographed, recorded and shared. Please join us in person at Athabasca University or go to our website to join the event virtually on the day of this talk. Science Outreach - Athabasca website

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