



**International Society of Hymenopterists Virtual Conference #Hymathon2025**

**5 Dec 2025 06:00 UTC**

**Keynote Speaker, Session #3 09:20**



**Prof. Seirian Sumner**  
**University College, London**  
**The Secret World of Wasps**

Professor Sumner is a celebrated British entomologist who completed her PhD at University College London, where she studied the reproductive conflicts of primitively eusocial hover wasps. This was followed by a postdoc at the University of Copenhagen on the social parasitism of leaf cutting ants. Succeeding this, Professor Sumner held a number of independent fellowship positions before taking a senior lectureship position at the University of Bristol, returning to University College London in 2016. Here, she currently leads the Sumner Lab, where her active and engaged lab seeks to understand the evolution of sociality and social behaviour, from the genome to phenotype, through the interplay of genes, behaviour and the environment. She is also author of the wonderful, and highly acclaimed “Endless Forms: The Secret World of Wasps”, a beautifully written, funny and engaging book which will convince even the most ardent of wasp haters why they should understand and love wasps.