The research of my team focusses on the ecology and biodiversity of invertebrates in marine ecosystems, with special emphasis on harpacticoid copepods (Crustacea). Next to the analysis of structural biodiversity in a wide variety of marine habitats, functional changes in invertebrates in relation to environmental change or anthropogenic activities are analysed i.e. how do they response to changes in temperature, pollution, stressors, food quality and food availability. More specifically, trophic interactions and energy flows in marine food webs are disentangled by means of trophic markers (stable isotopes, fatty acids). Biochemical profiling of field samples and material from lab experiments serves as the perfect toolbox to unravel ‘biodiversity-ecosystem functioning’ research questions in marine ecosystems worldwide.

This ecological research links up with aquaculture in terms of for example sustainable use of marine resources, energy profiling of food sources and consumers, feed optimalisation, outflow of multitrophic aquaculture (MTA), role of omega-3 fatty acids during growth processes, environmental impact of aquaculture, …

See also [www.marinebiology.ugent.be/node/28261](http://www.marinebiology.ugent.be/node/28261)