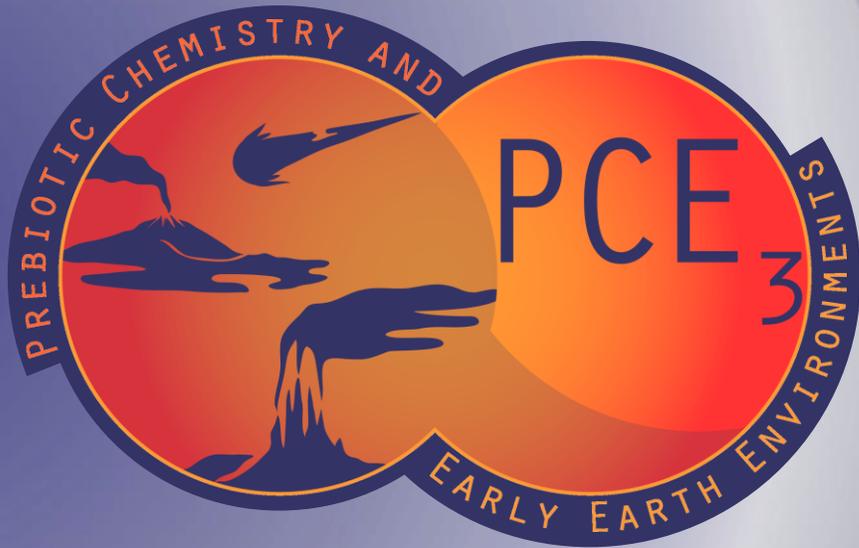


Theme:  
Messy Systems



## PCE<sub>3</sub> Seminar Series

Thurs, August 11<sup>th</sup>

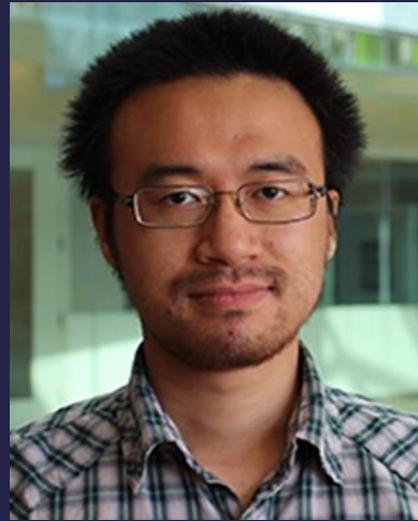
1 p.m. EST/10 a.m. PST

More information & registration:

[prebioticchem.info/seminar-series/index.html](http://prebioticchem.info/seminar-series/index.html)



@PCE3\_Sci



### Zhen Peng

Postdoctoral Associate  
*Wisconsin Institute for Discovery,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison,  
Baum Lab*

"From autocatalysis to chemical ecosystems: simple rules underlying complex properties"



### Ankit Jain

Postdoctoral Fellow  
*Advanced Science Research Center,  
City University of New York (New York),  
Ulijn Lab*

"Adaptation patterns in a complex peptide library"

Topical introduction by Jim Cleaves, Professor at the Earth-Life Science Institute, Tokyo Institute of Technology

## Zhen Peng

Dr. Zhen Peng is a postdoctoral associate in Dr. David A. Baum's group at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery, University of Wisconsin-Madison. He obtained his B.S. in Biological Sciences at Fudan University, Shanghai, where he also studied copy number variations in human genomes in Dr. Feng Zhang's group. He then obtained his Ph.D. in Evolution, Ecology and Population Biology at Washington University in St. Louis, where he studied non-neutral synonymous mutations and codon usage biases in eukaryotic genomes in Dr. Yehuda Ben-Shahar's group. He is now working with Dr. Baum on the theory of chemical ecosystems, which states that autocatalytic motifs can organize chemical reaction networks into a state similar to biological ecosystems, which allows for the emergence of multiple life-like features from abiotic and even inorganic systems. He is also interested in bridging theories and experiments in origin-of-life research.

## Ankit Jain

Ankit did his Ph.D. at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, India, where he studied dynamic supramolecular systems. He then joined Prof. Rein Ulijn's lab at the Advanced Science Research Center, City University of New York (New York) as a Simons postdoctoral fellow. There, his work mainly focuses on the development of dynamic peptide libraries for answering questions pertaining to adaptation in complex reactive mixtures.

## Jim Cleaves

Henderson "Jim" Cleaves is an organic geochemist whose interests include the origins of life and life detection. He received his PhD from the University of California San Diego. He is the President of the International Society for the Scientific Study of the Origins of Life.

