SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT | Exploring Impacts of Different MPAs

Extractive Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Can Be Just as Effective as No-Take MPAs Under the Right Circumstances

By 2030, scientists estimate that governments will designate almost 30% of the ocean as marine protected areas (MPAs); however, despite this increase, there is still a limited understanding of the impacts of different MPA types and their management styles.

Dr. **David Gill**, a former SESYNC postdoctoral fellow and current **Assistant Professor at Duke University**, is seeking to provide a greater understanding of different MPAs' effects, with the findings in his **recent paper**, published by the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.*

Gill explained that we are heading into a decade where we may see rapid transformation of the ocean—not only because of climate change and human impacts but also because of policy, which includes the implementation of MPAs.

An MPA, as described by the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**, is "a defined region designated and managed for the long-term conservation of marine resources, ecosystems services, or cultural heritage."

"Never before has there been such an unprecedented effort to conserve marine ecosystems with the 2030 targets to conserve 30% of the oceans—essentially tripling the amount of marine-protected areas around the world," Gill explained. "The implications of applying management to a third of the world's oceans without a complete understanding

of what types of MPAs have what types of effects are pretty significant," he said.

With their paper, Gill and his colleagues sought to fill this research gap by highlighting the relative impacts of different MPAs and how those can vary in terms of MPAs' context and management approaches. **Read more.**

RESOURCES | Governance & Natural Resources

Explore SESYNC Projects, Publications & Other Learning Materials on Governance & Natural Resources

Learn more about the work of other socio-environmental researchers exploring the role of governance, decision-making, and natural resource management in creating more sustainable systems. See some examples below.

Explainer: Polycentric Governance: When Is It Good?

This brief explainer article defines polycentric governance and describes what contributing factors make it most effective. It also explores a couple of case studies of marine protected areas that exemplify polycentric governance. **Learn more**.

Audio Interview: Private Land Management Decision Making

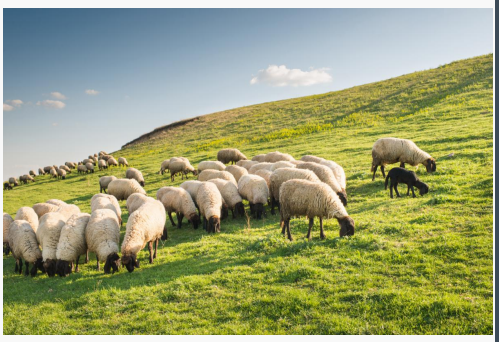
Here, Dr. Robyn Wilson and Dr. Rebecca Epanchin-Niell discuss their team's efforts to model private land management decision making using theories from economics, sociology, and psychology. The goal is that with a greater understanding of the decision-making processes of landowners, we can better design programs, incentives, and policies that benefit all. **Learn more**.

Video: Water & Governance

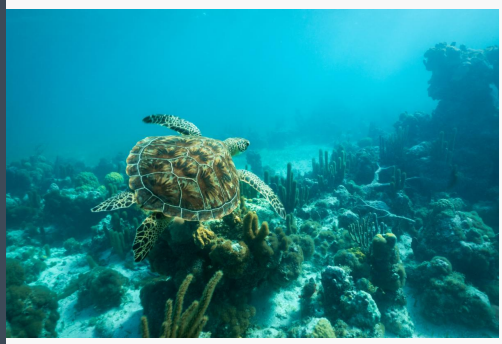
Increasingly, water resources across the United States are becoming points of conflict for humans and non-humans who depend on water for life. But what factors are driving this trend? This question drove several legal scholars, human geographers and ecologists to work across disciplines to seek solutions.

Watch this **SESYNC video** to see how the **Resilience & Governance team** worked to better understand the implications of water-management decisions and to develop a set of tools to help society navigate a more sustainable future.

Lesson: Governance Theory, Pt 1: Revising the Tragedy of the Commons



This first lesson in a two-part series addresses the paradigm shift from Hardin's pessimistic view of the commons to Ostrom's more inclusive and constructive theory of polycentric governance. Learners study polycentric design in climate change governance to understand the crucial elements of trust and communication. **Read more**.



Governance Theory Lesson, Pt 2: Case Studies in Polycentric Resource Management

This second lesson in a two-part series takes a case study of a vast marine reserve in Hawai'i to demonstrate how the design of polycentric governance can include local, tribal, state, and federal stakeholders. **Learn more**.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT | Register Now

NEWAVE Water Conference – Registration Now Open

NEWAVE warmly invites you to their upcoming **'Diffused Conference: The Next Wave of Water Governance', ** starting next week **Thursday, April 4, 2024.**

As the name suggests, the Conference will be organized throughout the upcoming eight months, from April 4 to December 4, 2024. It will start with an opening plenary, followed by a biweekly series on key water governance topics from the NEWAVE Early-Stage Researchers.

The plenary will begin with opening remarks from former SESYNC postdoc **Jampel Dell'Angelo**.

Learn more and **register here**.

Find more details below about the **plenary session, April 4, 2024 15:30 – 17:30 CEST.**

15:30 – Welcoming Remarks, *Jampel Dell'Angelo*

15:35 – The NEWAVE Journey Network & Activities, *Caterina Marinetti*; Early Stage Researchers Virtual Lab, *Shahana Bilalova*

15:50 – Actionable research and co-production, *Giorgos Kallis*

16:00 – NEWAVE outcomes (part I) – Interactive breakout rooms, *Paulina Raniecka*

16:30 – Break

16:35 – NEWAVE outcomes (part II) – *Caterina Marinetti*

17:10 – Launch of NEWAVE seminar series

17:15 – Closing remarks, *Jampel Dell'Angelo*

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