



SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center



MEETING FACILITATION | New SESYNC Resource Available!

Facilitating Interdisciplinary Meetings: A Practical Guide

Facilitators can play an important role in helping socio-environmental research teams achieve equitable collaborations, reach decisions, manage time, keep work flowing, and—at best—seamlessly achieve their goals. While teams at SESYNC have access to facilitation support from our Research Program staff, we recognize that beyond SESYNC, many teams may not have access to the services of an external facilitator and will need to develop this capacity from within.

Our newest resource, **Facilitating Interdisciplinary Meetings: A Practical Guide**, aims to help with that by providing a practical introduction for those interested in learning more about meeting facilitation. Developed by seasoned SESYNC facilitators Dr. Dana Graef, Dr. Jonathan Kramer, and Dr. Nicole Motzer, the guide shares approaches and practices used at SESYNC in facilitating synthesis meetings, trainings, and workshops to help improve teamwork processes. Download the full guide [here](#).



Facilitating Interdisciplinary Meetings:
A Practical Guide

Dana J. Graef, Jonathan G. Kramer, and Nicole Motzer



WELCOME | Inaugural Payne Fellowship Awarded

SESYNC Is Pleased to Welcome Damani Eubanks as Our Newest Graduate Fellow

Damani Eubanks is the inaugural recipient of the **Dr. Richard Payne Graduate Fellowship**, which strives to recognize



excellence in graduate students within the University of Maryland's (UMD's) College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences by supporting innovative and actionable research that directly links social and environmental sciences. The fellowship honors Dr. Payne's outstanding professional and personal contributions to the University of Maryland, including serving as a Professor in the Department of Biology, a member of the University Senate, and a dedicated instructor and mentor for students and postdocs.

Eubanks is currently in his third year of his PhD Program within UMD's Behavior, Ecology, Evolution, and Systems Program, where he is studying forest health. His research focuses on developing a quantitative, globally applicable definition of forest health for use in ecological research and forest management activities. His ultimate goal is to use past forest health data to develop a predictive model to forecast forest health outcomes into the future, informing management and policy work. [Read more.](#)

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT | Former SESYNC Postdoc Honored

South Africa's National Research Foundation Recognizes Former Postdoc

Congratulations to former SESYNC Postdoc Dr. Christopher Trisos! South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF) recently awarded Trisos with a rare P-rating. The **NRF** gives this rating to young researchers (normally under 35 years of age) who have held a doctorate for less than five years and "are considered likely to become future international leaders in their respective fields, on the basis of exceptional potential demonstrated in research performance and output during doctoral and/or early post-doctoral careers." Trisos currently directs the Climate Risk Laboratory at the African Climate and Development Initiative at the University of Cape Town.



Of the honor he says, "It is very affirming that a panel of fellow scientists have recognized the choices that I have made in my career." He adds, "A major part of what makes research fun and meaningful for me is being able to work effectively in interdisciplinary teams, which is a skill I learnt as a postdoc at SESYNC!" [Read more.](#)

LATEST VIDEO | Introduction to ABMs Part 2

Introduction to Spatial Agent-Based Models Part 2 Now Available

Our newest SESYNC video, "[Introduction to Spatial Agent-Based Models Part 2](#)," is the companion to Dr. Nick Magliocca's [first video](#) in this two-part series. Here, Dr. Magliocca presents:

- The core components of an agent-based model (ABM)
- How ABMs work
- Some applications that illustrate the flexibility of ABMs.

Watch the video below and find the Introduction to Spatial Agent-Based Models Part 1 [here](#).



Reminder! [Subscribe](#) to our [YouTube channel](#) to get updates when new videos are added.



SEMINARS | Virtual Seminar Series Continues

Join us at 11 a.m. ET on Tuesdays as SESYNC's virtual seminar series continues. These talks, from socio-environmental researchers working in various fields, are free and open to the public. Registration is required. Full schedule available [here](#).



Dr. Laura Dee, University of Colorado, Boulder

"Quantifying How Global Change Impacts Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services"

February 23, 2021

Learn more and register [HERE](#).



Dr. Katie Peterson, SESYNC

"Climate Change and Temperature Variability in the Northeast Shelf Regional Ecosystem"

Dr. Ryan Unks, SESYNC

"Socio-Ecological Analysis of Multi-Scalar Landscape Change and Livelihoods in Kenyan Rangelands"

March 23, 2021

Learn more and register [HERE](#).

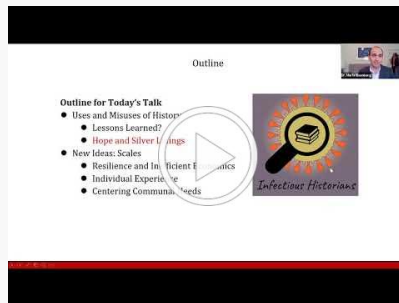
SEMINAR RECORDINGS | Catch Our Previous Seminars

Miss any of our previous seminars? Get caught up on our [YouTube channel](#).



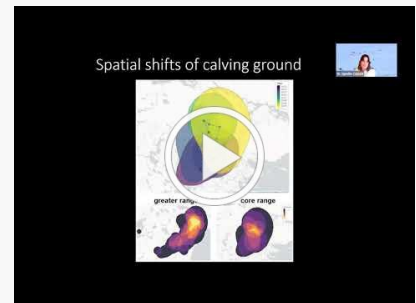
Conserving Large Carnivores in Europe: How Much Wild Can We Fit into Human-Dominated Landscapes?

Presented by Dr. John Linnell, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research. [Learn more.](#)



The Use and Misuse of Historical Pandemics during Covid: Reflections after One Year

Presented by Dr. Merle Eisenberg, SESYNC. [Learn more.](#)



Living in a Changing Arctic: Implications for Barren-Ground Caribou Populations

Presented by Dr. Ophélie Couriot, SESYNC. [Learn more.](#)

NEW PUBLICATIONS | SESYNC in the Journals

"Linking subsistence harvest diversity and productivity to adaptive capacity in an Alaskan food sharing network." Published in *American Journal of Human Biology* by former SESYNC postdoc Drew Gerkey and colleagues Shane A. Scaggs and Katherine R. McLaughlin.

"Bioaccumulation of Pathogen Exposure in Top Predators." Published in *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* by former SESYNC postdoc Lauren A. White and colleagues Jennifer L. Malmberg, and Sue Vande Woude.

"Working across space and time: nonstationarity in ecological research and application." Published in *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* by former SESYNC postdoc Dexter H. Locke and colleagues Christine R Rollinson, Andrew O Finley, M Ross Alexander, Sudipto Banerjee, Kelly-Ann Dixon Hamil, Lauren E Koenig, Megan Peterson, Morgan W Tingley, Kathryn Wheeler, Casey Youngflesh, and Elise F Zipkin.

"Piloting urban ecosystem accounting for the United States." Published in *Ecosystem Services* by Mehdi Heris, Kenneth J. Bagstad, Charles Rhodes, Austin Troy, Ariane Middel, Krissy G. Hopkins, and John Matuszak. This paper resulted from the Pursuit [Accounting for US Ecosystem Services at National and Subnational Scales](#).

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