



SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center

Qualitative Data Initiative

White paper and resource guides released

Qualitative data has long been used in primary socio-environmental research to explore additional and complementary dimensions of problems, questions and systems dynamics that cannot be adequately or fully measured by quantitative metrics alone. However, as open science and synthesis research has become increasingly common, and with it data sharing and data re-use, qualitative data remains under-accessed, under-utilized, and often simply unavailable. [A SESYNC-supported workshop last year](#) brought together interested actors from across the research data lifecycle to discuss ways to improve and encourage qualitative data sharing and re-use. Outputs from the workshop, including a white paper and five two-page resource guides for specific types of actors, are now available as resources associated with the SESYNC [Qualitative Data Initiative](#). [The white paper](#) presents a synthesis of the benefits and challenges of qualitative data sharing and re-use, and offers a new framework for characterizing types of qualitative data and how they can be appropriately

managed to maximize accessibility and re-use. The two-page resource guides provide specific recommendations for [researchers](#), [research institutions](#), [funders](#), [journals](#), and [data repositories](#) on actions they can take to increase qualitative data sharing and re-use.

Webinar and additional resources coming soon

In the coming months, blog posts and quick start guides that focus on managing the qualitative data workflow in collaborative synthesis research will be added to the [SESYNC Cyberhelp site](#). On April 10, Kristal Jones, SESYNC research scientist, and Steven Alexander, former SESYNC postdoc and current Mitacs Science Policy Fellow and Science Advisor based at Fisheries and Oceans Canada, will present a DataONE webinar that overviews key findings from the white paper, as well as recommendations and resources for improving qualitative data management for sharing and re-use. Details on the webinar can be found here: <https://www.dataone.org/webinars>.

Accepting Applications

Introduction to Social Network Analysis Short Course

Application Deadline: March 30, 2018

This 5-day short course, which will take place from **July 16 - 20, 2018**, will serve as an introduction to the theory and practice of social network analysis (SNA). Where standard statistical analysis assumes that observations on different entities (people, organizations, animals, etc.) are independent, SNA looks to the relationships among these observations to try to explain why this configuration of relationships might exist, or how this network structure explains other attributes of the network. While network science has a long tradition, this field has recently exploded with new data resources in social media and new computational methods, particularly in the application to socio-environmental systems.

To learn more and apply, please [visit our website](#).

Introduction to Spatial Agent-Based Modeling Short Course

Application Deadline: April 2, 2018

The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center invites applications for a 5-day short course, **June 11 - 15, 2018**, that will serve as an introduction to the theory and practice of spatially-explicit agent-based modeling (ABM).

This course will guide you through the basic phases of the ABM research process: formulating a research question, specifying a model, creating a

simulation and interpreting the output. The course combines lectures with hands-on model-building sessions where you will build a model using NetLogo to acquire basic and intermediate programming skills. More advanced students are welcome to build a model in a programming language of their choice.

To learn more and apply, please [visit our website](#).

Teaching Socio-Environmental Synthesis with Case Studies

Application Deadline: April 18, 2018

The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center invites applications for the Teaching Socio-Environmental Synthesis with Case Studies short course to be held **July 30-Aug 02, 2018**. The goals of the short course are to:

1. Introduce participants to socio-environmental synthesis (S-E synthesis) as a problem-solving approach.
2. Engage participants in advancing the teaching of S-E synthesis and related concepts and competencies.
3. Enable participants to use a powerful and effective teaching approach, the case study method, to teach S-E synthesis.
4. Support participants in developing their own case study classroom activity that can be used in their classrooms and shared on the SESYNC website.

To learn more and apply, please [visit our website](#).

Summer Institute on Cyberinfrastructure for Socio-Environmental Synthesis

Application Deadline: April 27, 2018

The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) invites applications to a short course on data and coding skills for socio-environmental synthesis. The 5th annual Summer Institute will be held **July 24 - 27, 2018** at SESYNC in Annapolis, Maryland. The short course will combine lectures, hands-on computer labs, and project consultation designed to accelerate the adoption of cyber resources for all phases of data-driven research and dissemination.

Through this short course, participants should expect to:

- learn new scientific computing skills
- overcome project hurdles
- gain coding confidence
- have fun

To learn more and apply, please [visit our website](#).



Graduate Pursuits

Application Deadline: May 15, 2018

The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) in Annapolis, MD invites proposals from highly qualified graduate students interested in conducting **collaborative, socio-environmental synthesis research** (i.e. "Graduate Pursuits").

Graduate Pursuits are supported for a period of 18 months. Such support centers around 3-4 team meetings at SESYNC, but also includes a suite of services ranging from team facilitation to computational and cyber infrastructure resources to science communication.

To learn more and apply, please **visit our website**.

The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) requests proposals for collaborative and interdisciplinary team-based research projects under two programs: **Pursuits and Workshops**.

Proposals are invited for synthesis projects focused on tools, methods, and other practices applicable to actionable team research on socio-environmental problems.

Pursuits

Application Deadline: May 15, 2018

Teams applying as a Pursuit are invited to apply under the following three Themes:

- **Water, People, and Ecosystems**
- **Social and Environmental Dimensions of the Food-Energy-Water Nexus**
- **Sudden or Unexpected Events: Environmental Recovery, Reorganization**

[or Restoration](#)

We recognize that there are many potential projects with great applicability to socio-environmental problems that fall outside of these three Themes. Accordingly, SESYNC offers a limited number of opportunities for exciting and creative Pursuits that are not explicitly tied to a Theme (**socio-environmental problem-focused**).

To learn more and apply, please [visit our website](#).

Workshops

Application Deadline: May 15, 2018

Teams interested in applying for a Workshop, a single meeting of up to ~25 participants, may focus on a broad topic or a set of related topics relevant to socio-environmental synthesis. Workshops may summarize and/or synthesize the state of the topic and/or identify future directions that have the potential to lead to a larger synthesis effort. Workshop applications are not required to fall under a Theme.

To learn more and apply, please [visit our website](#).

SESYNC Publications

Homogenization of plant diversity, composition, and structure in North American urban yards. Published in *Ecosphere* by William D. Pearse and colleagues, including SESYNC researcher Morgan Grove and former SESYNC postdoc Meghan Alvolio.

The fruit and vegetable import pathway for potential invasive pest arrivals. Published in *PlosOne* by Erik Lichtenberg and Lars Olson as part of the Pursuit, *Globalization of the Live Plant Trade: Informing Efficient Strategies for Reducing Non-Native Pest Invasion Risk*.

Vegetation cover in relation to socioeconomic factors in a tropical city assessed from sub-meter resolution imagery. Published in *Ecological Applications* by Sebastian Martinuzzi and colleagues, including SESYNC postdoc Dexter Locke.

Forest ethnography: An approach to study the environmental history and political ecology of urban forests. Published in *Urban Ecosystems* by Laura Ogden and colleagues, including SESYNC researcher Morgan Grove and SESYNC postdocs Billy Hall and Dexter Locke.

Restoration and repair of Earth's damaged ecosystems. Published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* by Holly Jones and colleagues as part of the Pursuit, *A Restoration Synthesis*.

Human and biophysical legacies shape contemporary urban forests: A literature synthesis. Published in *Urban Forestry and Urban Greening* by Lara Roman and colleagues, including SESYNC researcher Morgan Grove,

SESYNC postdoc Dexter Locke, and former SESYNC postdoc Meghan Alvolio.

Closing global knowledge gaps: Producing generalized knowledge from case studies of social-ecological systems. Published in *Global Environmental Change* by former SESYNC researcher Nick Magliocca and colleagues, including former SESYNC postdocs Ginger Allington and Jampel Dell'Angelo, as part of the workshop, *Globalizing Our Understanding of Land-use Change*.

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