



SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center



FRESHEN UP | With Our Most Popular Topics

Embrace the Season with SESYNC!

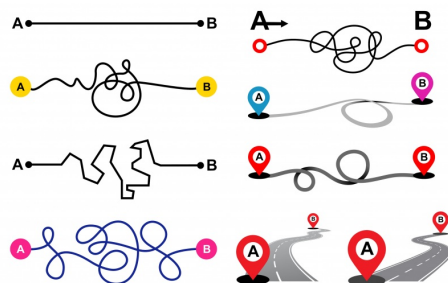
Spring has sprung at SESYNC! With new growth all around us, it's a great time to consider doing some spring cleaning of your go-to socio-environmental resources.

Looking to spruce up some of your existing lesson plans? Seeking fresh strategies for interdisciplinary collaboration? Or wanting to grow your understanding of certain methodologies? Then check out these explainers on some of our most popular topics below.

Modeling Socio-Environmental Systems

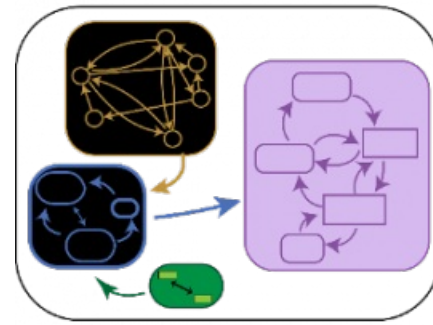
Modeling and Socio-Environmental Systems: Introduction and Common Terminology

Modeling offers a wealth of opportunities for better understanding coupled human-natural systems, which are inherently complex. This explainer focuses primarily on models that use a variety of approaches. It also includes an introductory list of common terms used by modelers. [Learn more.](#)



Modeling Approaches – What Are the Choices and How Do We Select One?

This explainer outlines the decision process for choosing the best modeling approach for a particular socio-environmental system (SES) and provides an overview of some of the most commonly types of models used with SES. Each description also provides an example of a published research study in which that particular modeling approach was used. [Learn more.](#)



Interdisciplinary Team Research



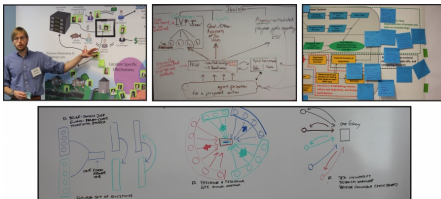
What Is Interdisciplinary Team Research? Are There Best Practices?

This explainer introduces the concept of interdisciplinary research. It provides a brief overview of the steps and practical considerations that teams should take to ensure a productive and transparent team process that integrates an array of talents and scholarship. [Learn more.](#)



Why Shaping a Team's Social Environment Is Important

The environment that teams collectively create as they interact—their social environment—has a significant influence on the likelihood their experience will be positive and productive. This explainer discusses what influences collaborative environments and provides a few practical ways to enhance them. [Learn more.](#)



What Is a Shared Mental Model? Why Are Mental Models Useful for Interdisciplinary Research?

This explainer describes shared mental models as visual representations that are meant to depict a research team's joint understanding of something (e.g., it could be their understanding of how

something works or how they think about it). This article explains how interdisciplinary teams can create and use such models to develop a shared understanding of the topic at hand, as well as a roadmap for their research process. [Learn more.](#)



Facilitating Interdisciplinary Meetings:
A Practical Guide

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

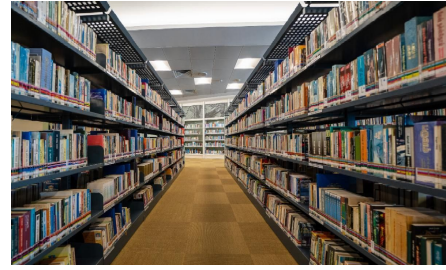
Facilitating Interdisciplinary Meetings: A Practical Guide

This guide is intended to be a practical introduction to approaches and practices used at SESYNC in facilitating synthesis meetings, trainings, and workshops to help improve teamwork processes. For example, this guides gives an overview of different facilitative roles, covers steps to take before a meeting begins, presents common techniques and practices that you can use during meetings, and shares some advice for reflecting, debriefing, and continuing to work with teams after the meeting is finished. [Learn more.](#)

Critical Discourse Analysis

Critical Discourse Analysis: What Is It?

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) describes a series of approaches for how researchers (socio-environmental and others) may critically analyze texts and cultural artifacts. This explainer introduces CDA and explains how researchers can use it to determine connotations and draw out the larger cultural narratives that these connotations support. For example, what is the social context of the story being told and why is the teller relating it in this particular narrative structure, lexicon, and moment in time? [Learn more.](#)



Critical Discourse Analysis: Qualitative Content Approach

Qualitative content analysis (QCA) is an extension of [narrative analysis](#) that integrates specialized software. This article explains how QCA blends qualitative and quantitative methods to organize a large number of texts into a standardized system of thematic coding, which can reveal discursive bias and cultural or organizational trends. QCA may reveal historical, geographical, and demographic patterns, as well as the ways in which archival documents may represent and preserve existing power structures and the priorities of managers invested in the status quo. [Learn more.](#)



Critical Discourse Analysis: Artificial Intelligence, Social Network, & Social Media Analysis

With advances in artificial intelligence (AI) analytics and the rise of big data created by high volumes of social media posts, critical discourse analysis researchers have new quantitative, locational, and demographic tools at their disposal. By harnessing software's quantitative analytical power, researchers may enjoy new qualitative insights about complex S-E interactions. [Learn more.](#)



NEW PUBLICATIONS | SESYNC in the Journals

"Ecological and developmental history impacts the equitable distribution of services." Published in *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* by Lindsay E. Darling, Christine R. Rollinson, Robert T. Fahey, Anita T. Morzillo, Lea R. Johnson, Matthew Baker, Myla F.J. Aronson, and Brady S. Hardiman. This paper resulted from the Pursuit [Urban Woodlands](#).

CONTACT US | We Want To Hear From You!

We'd like to hear from you! Do you have updates or outcomes tied to your SESYNC research that would make for an interesting research spotlight? Are you looking for a resource on a topic that we haven't covered yet? Do you want to share an idea? Contact us at communications@sesync.org.



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