



SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center



FIRST MEETING GUIDE | New SESYNC Resource Available!

Tips for Holding Your First Interdisciplinary Team Meeting

If you liked our recently published [meeting facilitation guide](#), then you'll want to check out our latest resource, the [First Meeting Guide](#). This new document provides advice for how to structure your first team meeting to make sure you're making the most of your team's initial gathering. Tips include how to create a collaborative space, plan for success, develop mental models, and more. Check out the new guide [here](#).



WEBINAR | Socio-Environmental Modeling Challenges

WEBINAR on S-E Modeling Coming Soon!

Watch for more information about our upcoming webinar series focused on the grand challenges of socio-environmental modeling this spring! More details to come on our website and via email soon.

CALL FOR DATA | Seeking Foliar Nitrogen Measurements



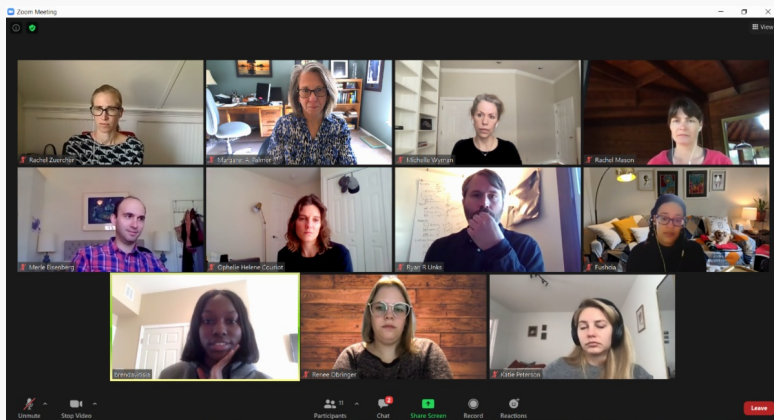
SESYNC Researchers Seeking Data for New Compilation

Is the protein content of plants on the decline? SESYNC researchers Andrew Elmore and Rachel Mason plan to find out, and they're asking for your help. As part of their pursuit, "[The ecological consequences of declining nitrogen concentrations in plants worldwide](#)," Drs. Elmore and Mason are compiling what they hope to be the largest database of foliar nitrogen (N) measurements to date. If you have foliar N measurements from non-agricultural ecosystems anywhere in the world, please consider contributing them to this project. Data access and co-authorship opportunities available; see this [web page](#) for more information.

POSTDOC NEWS | Reflecting on How Science & Policy Intersect

Postdocs Reflect on Recent Discussion

As part of the Immersion Program's ongoing professional development series, SESYNC postdocs recently explored the interface of science and policy during a discussion with Global Council for Science and the Environment's Michelle Wyman and Brenda Vitisia. While discussing the importance of working with people from diverse backgrounds and with different values, Wyman and Vitisia shared some common approaches to building trust and finding common ground among stakeholders to advance environmental goals. They especially emphasized the importance of translating science into terms that everyone at the table can understand and that are relevant to individual interests.



To illustrate the critical role of language, Wyman and Vitisia then shared real-world examples they had experienced during their careers. These examples included squaring a federal recycling mandate with local-level waste management logistics in a cash-strapped municipality to liaising between United Nations and Kenyan government partners to promote durable solutions to environmental challenges. They explained the critical process of building trust among stakeholders and finding common interests and goals rather than pushing your own agenda. [Read more.](#)

NEW VIDEO SERIES | Knowledge Integration Across Disciplines

In this new four-part video series, Dr. Deana Pennington, of the University of Texas, El Paso, introduces the practice of knowledge integration across disciplines. Read below to learn more about each one.

Video 1: Introduction to Collaboration Across Disciplines

Dr. Pennington begins by reviewing some empirical

data about interdisciplinary research teams and then explaining how to think of interdisciplinary teams as cognitive systems. [Learn more.](#)

Video 2: Vocabulary

Dr. Pennington introduces some standard vocabulary used by people who study interdisciplinary research teams. [Learn more.](#)



Video 3: Mental Models

Dr. Pennington explains the concept of mental models and their role in interdisciplinary collaboration. [Learn more.](#)

Video 4: Knowledge Integration Strategies

Dr. Pennington discusses strategies for integrating knowledge and ways to test these strategies. [Learn more.](#)

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



SEMINARS | Virtual Seminar Series Continues

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](#).

*Please note that Dr. Sze's seminar will be held **Thursday**, April 8, at **3 p.m. ET**.



March 23, 2021

11 a.m. ET

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"

Learn more and register [HERE](#).



April 8, 2021

3 p.m. ET

Dr. Julie Sze, University of California, Davis

"Situating Justice and Sustainability: Connections, Convergence and Confounding"

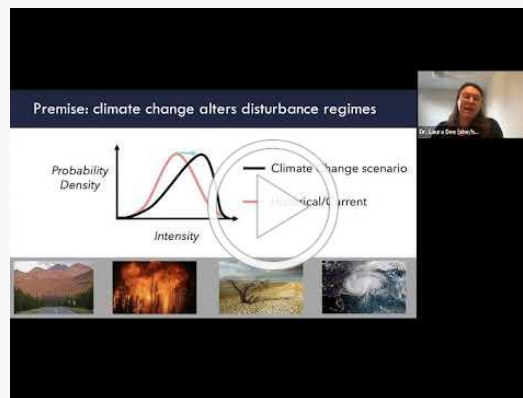
Learn more and register [HERE](#).

SEMINAR VIDEOS | Recent Seminars Now Available

See Past SESYNC Seminar Series

In case you missed it, our previous seminar with Dr. Laura Dee is now available on SESYNC's YouTube channel. You can catch her talk "Quantifying How Global Change Impacts Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services," [here](#).

Looking for any of our other previous talks? Check out the seminars playlist on our [YouTube channel](#).



NEW S-E ARTICLES | Experts Talk Research & Collaboration

Socio-Hydrology: What Is It?

By: Margaret Palmer

This brief explainer article goes over the basics of the topic of socio-hydrology, including:

- The origins of the concept
- Its distinction from similar fields
- Relevant research questions.

Find it [here](#).



Taking Collaboration to the Next Level: An Interview with Rebecca Freeth

By: Rachel Swanwick

Dr. Rebecca Freeth explains the importance of prioritizing collaboration among research teams and outlines key learning strategies to leverage collaboration as a tool to advance project goals. Find it [here](#).



NEW PUBLICATIONS | SESYNC in the Journals

"Have food supply chain policies improved forest conservation and rural livelihoods? A systematic review." Published in [Environmental Research Letters](#) by former SESYNC postdoc Florian Gollnow and colleagues Rachael D. Garrett, Samuel A. Levy, Leonie Hodel, and Ximena Rueda.

"Applying Ostrom's Institutional Analysis and Development framework, and design principles for co-production to pollution management in Louisville's Rubbertown, Kentucky." Published in [Land Use Policy](#) by Sait Sarr, Bunny Hayes, and Daniel A. DeCaro, as a result of the Pursuit, [Legal Design Principles of Government-Supported Adaptation: Designing Effective Decentralization Programs in Cities and Vital Water Social-Ecological Systems](#).

"Do forests provide watershed services for farmers in the humid tropics? Evidence from the Brazilian Amazon." Published in [Ecological Economics](#) by Yu Wu, Katrina Mullan, Trent Biggs, Jill Caviglia-Harris, Daniel W. Harris, and Erin O. Sills, as a result of the Pursuit, [Brazil Forest Code](#).

