



SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center

OPPORTUNITIES | Includes New Short Course & Grad Workshop



Look for our new Request for Proposals coming in February!

WORKSHOPS

S-E Approaches to Watershed Management and Governance Workshop

February 18-21, 2020

Deadline to Apply: January 10, 2019

SESYNC invites applicants for the first workshop in the **Socio-Environmental (S-E) Early-Career Researchers Program**, titled "S-E Approaches to Watershed Management and Governance." This workshop will provide an opportunity for recent PhDs and PhD candidates interested in learning about S-E research related to watershed management and governance. [Learn more.](#)

NEW! Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Socio-Environmental Synthesis Research Workshop

March 24-27, 2020

Deadline to Apply: January 21, 2020

SESYNC, in partnership with the Ecological Society of America's **Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Sustainability (SEEDS)** program, invites PhD students from a wide range of under-represented experiences, perspectives, and backgrounds to attend an interactive, skill-building workshop on team-based, socio-environmental (S-E) synthesis. Attendees will learn from and build community with peers, synthesis experts, and mentors who share interests in investigating complex S-E problems; translating scientific contributions to actions and decisions; and increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in science. [Learn more.](#)

SHORT COURSES

2020 Bayesian Modeling for Socio-Environmental Data Short Course

June 1-11, 2020

Deadline to Apply: February 1, 2020

This returning short course will cover the basic principles of using Bayesian models to gain insight from data in S-E analysis. [Learn more.](#)

NEW! Interactive Web-Based Visualizations and Decision Support Tools in Shiny/R for Quantitative Scientists Short Course

May 13-15, 2020

Deadline to Apply: February 15, 2020

This three-day short course will introduce quantitative scientists interested in S-E synthesis to Shiny/R as a way of shrinking the gap between information generation in science and policy making or public outreach through the creation of web-based tools. [Learn more.](#)

POSTDOC PROGRAM | Workshop Sharpens Science Writing Skills



Dr. Josh Schimel works with SESYNC postdocs Merle Eisenberg and Fushcia Hoover during a writing exercise.

"We All Have Bad First Drafts": Lessons from a Professional Science Writer

By: Lauren White and Alaina Gallagher

"As a scientist, you are a professional writer," said Dr. Joshua Schimel during a recent science writing workshop held at the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC). During this event, SESYNC postdocs had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the storytelling process.

Schimel, a professor at the University of California Santa Barbara, is the author of *Writing Science: How to write papers that get cited and proposals that get funded*. Using this book as a basis for the workshop, Schimel provided SESYNC postdocs with insights into how to effectively connect with different audiences when writing about their research.

Prior to the workshop, participants developed writing samples that followed the OCAR format: opening, challenge, action, and resolution. Later in small groups, participants then had the opportunity to give and receive feedback on those drafts, focusing on the topics of structure, flow, and word choice. Dr. Schimel argued that all good manuscripts have these same elements of a good story. "Writing science is about telling a story about nature," he said. [Read more.](#)

STAFF UPDATES | Welcoming Newest Members of SESYNC

SESYNC Welcomes New Faces

Last fall, SESYNC expanded its Communications and Business teams by welcoming Erin Duffy and Alaina Gallagher. Learn more about them below.



Erin Duffy, Environmental Science Research Assistant

Erin Duffy is an Environmental Science Research Assistant, providing support to both SESYNC's Communications and Business Offices. In her roles, she applies her interests in the challenges inherent in socio-environmental issues and the successes that can arise from the robustness of interdisciplinary science to help preserve the natural world. [Learn more.](#)

Alaina Gallagher, Science Communications Coordinator

Alaina Gallagher is the Science Communications Coordinator at SESYNC. In this role, she coordinates all communication activities for the Center, helping to promote the mission and research accomplishments of the SESYNC network.

With a specialty in strategic communications and technical writing and editing, she enjoys translating scientific/technical content into language that is informative and accessible for all audiences. [Learn more.](#)



This January, SESYNC is pleased to welcome Jean Artois and Rachel Zuercher as they join us as postdoctoral research fellows. Learn more about them below.



Jean Artois, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Jean is a postdoctoral researcher at SESYNC whose doctoral research focused on the spatial distribution of avian influenza in humans, poultry, and wild birds. At SESYNC, his research will focus on the development of spatial modeling methods to understand and predict changes in habitat resulting from forest management practices throughout the central Appalachian Mountains. The aim of this approach is to better understand and forecast how the communities of birds respond to changes in forest and landscape structure. [Learn more.](#)

Rachel Zuercher, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

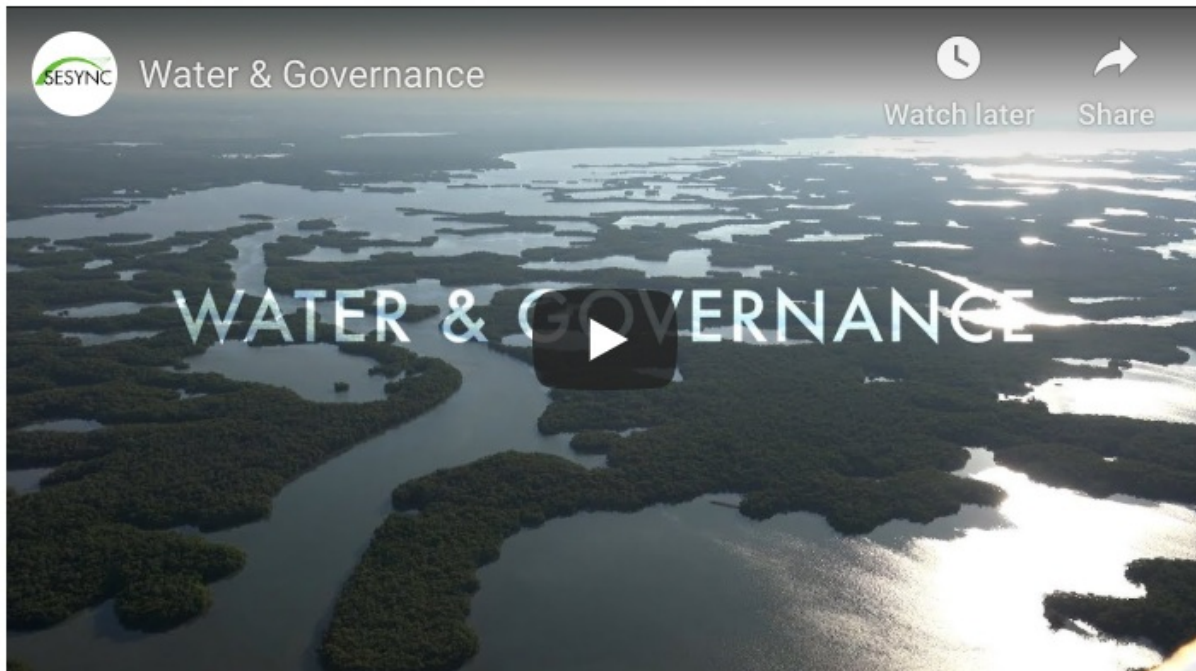
Rachel Zuercher is an interdisciplinary marine scientist interested in social-ecological connectivity in coastal and marine ecosystems. Her research combines the synthesis of disparate data sources with observational approaches to address pressing issues facing our oceans and the people who depend on them, with a particular emphasis on nearshore fisheries. Her work at SESYNC will focus on evaluating the efficacy of marine spatial planning initiatives. [Learn more.](#)



CONNECT | Get Social with SESYNC

Did you know you can watch SESYNC videos on our [YouTube](#) channel? Check out this video from our [Research in Action](#) series, Water and Governance below, and subscribe

to the SESYNC channel for more videos.



Watch how the Adaptive Water Governance team works to better understand the implications of water management decisions and work towards developing a set of tools to help society navigate a more sustainable future.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS | SESYNC in the Journals

"Great expectations? Reconciling the aspiration, outcome, and possibility of co-production."

Published in *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* by Kripa Jagannathan, James Arnott, Carina Wyborn, Nicole Klenk, Katharine Mach, Richard H. Moss, and Kathryn Dana Sjostrom, as part of the Foundation, [Advancing the Science of Knowledge Use: Mechanisms, Applications, and Gaps](#).

"Integrating fire effects on vegetation carbon cycling within an ecohydrological model." Published in *Ecological Modelling*, by Ryan Bart, Maureen Kennedy, and colleagues, as part of the Pursuit [Salience and Wildfire](#).

"Quantifying the return on investment of social and ecological data for conservation planning?"

Published in *Environmental Research Letters* by former SESYNC postdoc Christopher R. Field and colleague Chris S. Elphicker.

"The politics of co-production: participation, power, and transformation." Published in *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* by Esther Turnhout, Carina Wyborn, Nicole Klenk, and colleagues, as part of the Pursuit [Advancing the Science of Knowledge Use: Mechanisms, Applications and Gaps](#).

"Making room and moving over: knowledge co-production, Indigenous knowledge sovereignty and the politics of global environmental change decision-making." Published in *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* by Nicole Latulippe and Nicole Klenk, as part of the Pursuit [Advancing the Science of Knowledge Use: Mechanisms, Applications and Gaps](#).

"Understanding Catchment-Scale Forest Root Water Uptake Strategies across the Continental US through Inverse Ecohydrological Modeling " Published in *Geophysical Research Letters* by

SESYNC postdoc James Knighton and colleagues.

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