



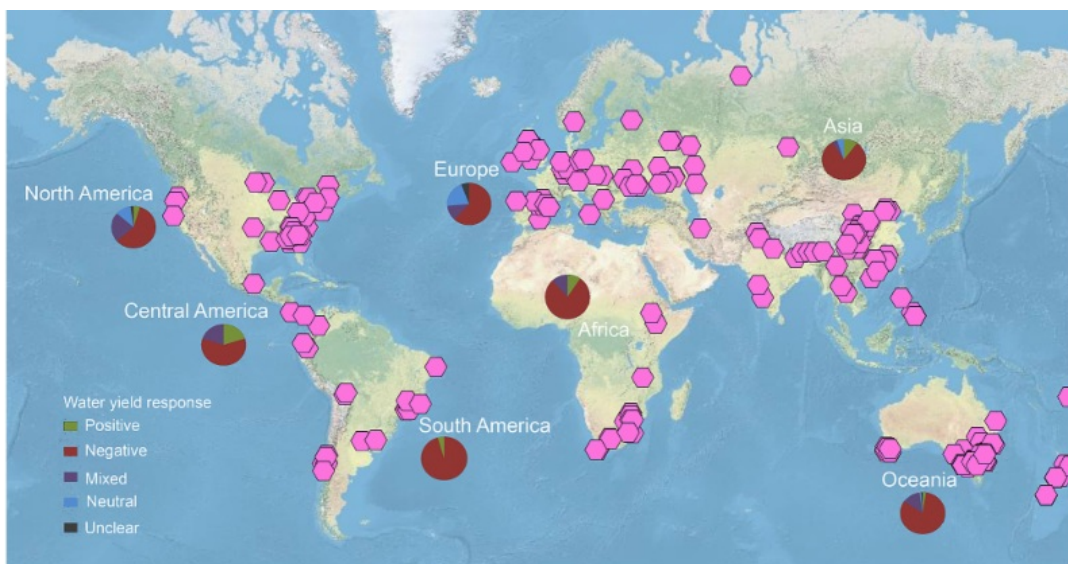
SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center

Research Highlight: New review of literature finds forest restoration and expansion may not improve water yields

Improving water quality and quantity is sometimes cited as motivation for restoring and expanding forest cover, especially in the tropics. But a new systematic review of literature finds that most studies show a reduction in water yield in response to forest restoration and expansion.

The study was a collaborative effort led by Associate Research Professor Solange Filoso at the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), and several researchers from SESYNC, including SESYNC Director Margaret Palmer, Kate Weiss, computational research assistant, and Maíra Ometto Bezerra, a graduate research assistant at SESYNC and UMCES.



Read more about the paper on [SESYNC's webpage](#).

Welcome New Staff

The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) is pleased to welcome Dr. Carrie Hritz as our new Associate Director of Research.

Carrie joins us from the Census Bureau where she was the Branch Chief of Partnership Communication and Outreach working with tribal, state, and local governments as well as other federal agencies. Before the Census Bureau, Carrie was an AAAS fellow placed in the Geosciences Directorate at the National Science Foundation working in International and Interdisciplinary funding initiatives.



Read more about Carrie in our [center news](#).

Welcome New Postdocs

SESYNC is pleased to welcome new Postdoctoral Fellows!



Dr. Bianca Lopez recently finished her Ph.D. in Ecology at the University of North Carolina.

SESYNC Project: Benefits of urban green spaces

Read more about Bianca in our [center news](#).

Dr. Billy Hall recently finished his Ph.D. in Global and Sociocultural Studies at Florida International University.

SESYNC Project: Long-Term Socio-Environmental Dynamics of Urban Segregation

Read more about Billy in our [center news](#).



Dr. Nate Jones has a Ph.D. in Biological Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech.

SESYNC Project: Hydrologic Connectivity in Wetland Dominated Headwater Catchments

Read more about Nate in our [center news](#).

Dr. Maia Call recently finished her Ph.D. in Geography at the University of North Carolina.

SESYNC Project: Climate, migration and gender in Asia: Unexplored Intersections

Read more about Maia in our [center news](#).



Dr. Chris Field received his Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut's Ecology and Evolutionary Biology department in 2016.

SESYNC Project: Integrating social, ecological, and evolutionary factors to improve understanding of tidal marsh ecosystem responses to sea-level rise.

Read more about Chris in our [center news](#).

SESYNC Postdoctoral Fellowship Program 2018

Pre-screening Application Deadline: October 27, 2017

SESYNC invites applications from early career scholars for two-year postdoctoral fellowships that begin August 2018. Each fellow works with a **Collaborating Mentor** of their choosing that extends the fellow's current network of collaborators; the mentor may be affiliated with any organization or institution.



Fellows are in residence at SESYNC full-time but are provided travel funds to interact with their mentor and attend conferences.

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

Become a Collaborating Mentor

Collaborating Mentors for 2018 Postdoctoral Fellows

Application Deadline for Mentor Registry: October 27, 2017

SESYNC seeks Collaborating Mentors interested in mentoring incoming SESYNC Postdoctoral Fellows and co-developing socio-environmental synthesis research projects with them. The mentor may be affiliated with any organization or institution.



We welcome mentors from universities, NGOs, government agencies, and other research institutions. This is an ideal opportunity for collaborations across disciplines, as our competitive Postdoctoral Fellowship programs receive applications from scholars across the social, natural, and computational sciences.

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

Request for Proposals

Propose a Pursuit or Workshop

Deadline: October 13, 2017



SESYNC requests proposals for collaborative and interdisciplinary team-based research projects under two programs: Pursuits and Workshops.

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

- **Water, People, and Ecosystems**
- **Environmental Dynamics and Food Systems**
- **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 (i.e., socio-environmental problem-focused). We are particularly interested in projects that address the following topics: S-E systems modeling; environmental and social implications of emerging gene editing technologies; and national ecosystem accounts. Pursuit teams should be comprised of no more than 15 members who will meet at our Center in Annapolis for three to four meetings of approximately three to five days over a period of two years.

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. Workshop applications are not required to fall under a Theme.

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

Join Our Team

SESYNC Seeks Two Faculty Research Scientists



Two Faculty Research Positions: Agent-based Modeling & System Dynamical Modeling

Deadline: October 02, 2017

SESYNC seeks two Assistant Research Scientists, one with expertise in agent based modeling, and the other with expertise in system dynamical modeling. These are two-year research faculty positions through the University of Maryland. Effort in each will be equally divided between conducting independent synthesis research and contributing to SESYNC's programs and activities. The incumbents will have freedom and responsibility to design and conduct their own independent research program, applying ABM or system dynamics approaches to understand aspects of sustainability and address pressing problems in socio-environmental systems.

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

SESYNC Publications

General ecological models for human subsistence, health and poverty. Published in *Nature Ecology & Evolution* by Calistus Ngonghala and colleagues as part of the **Land Use Change & Infectious Diseases** Pursuit.

Impacts of forest restoration on water yield: A systematic review. Published by Solange Filoso, Maira Ometto Bezerra, Katherine Weiss, and Margaret Palmer in *PLoS ONE*.

Re-examining balinese subaks through the lens of cultural multilevel selection. Jeremy Brooks led this publication in *Sustainability Science*, as part of the SESYNC Pursuit **Evolution of Sustainability**.

European large-scale farmland investments and the land-water-energy-food nexus. Co-authored by Paolo D'Odorico in *Advances in Water Resources* as part of his SESYNC sabbatical.

Integrating the social sciences to enhance climate literacy. Led by Rachael Shwom in *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* as part of the **Development of a Social & Ecological Framework for Understanding Climate Change**

Mitigation & Adaptation Pursuit.

The effect of nitrogen availability and water conditions on competition between a facultative CAM plant and an invasive grass. Published in *Ecology & Evolution* by Kailiang Yu, Paolo D'Odorico, and colleagues.

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1 Park Place, Suite 300, Annapolis, MD 21401
410.919.4810