



SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center

New Opportunity: SESYNC Co-Sponsors Workshop on Social Network Analysis

Dr. Lorien Jasny, of the University of Exeter and former SESYNC postdoctoral fellow, will lead a workshop on social network analysis in R June 27 to July 1. SESYNC will co-sponsor the workshop with the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program.

While network science has a long tradition, this field has recently exploded with new data resources in social media and new computational methods. This course presents an introduction to various concepts, methods, and applications of social network analysis drawn from the social and behavioral sciences. The focus of the course will be how to develop questions about social networks and appropriately test them.

Registration is open and fees vary. For more information and to register, [read more here](#).



Legal Culling of Wolves Substantially Increases Illegal Killing

Adrian Treves and Guillaume Chapron, members of the [Predicting Human-Wildlife Conflicts](#) working group at SESYNC, published a new study that offers the first quantitative evidence to indicate that allowing the culling of wolf populations "was substantially more likely to increase poaching than reduce it," report the authors.

Their findings appear in "Blood does not buy goodwill: allowing culling increases poaching of a large carnivore" in the [Proceedings of the Royal Society B](#).

Stories about their research appeared in *The New York Times*, the BBC, and *Science Magazine*, among many others. More [here](#).



Eight Institutional Practices to Support Interdisciplinary Research

How can institutions help enhance interdisciplinary team success? In a recent publication that appeared in *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* and excerpted on [Integration and Implementation Insights](#), Margaret Palmer, Jonathan Kramer, James Boyd, and David Hawthorne share eight practices they have developed at SESYNC to support interdisciplinary research.

"The SESYNC process is a set of reflexive practices for fostering team progress in which staff iteratively engage with team members over the life of their research project," the authors write. Read more [here](#).



New Explanation for Bee Die-Offs and What It Means for Human and Environmental Health

Science writer Lisa Palmer, SESYNC Fellow for Socio-Environmental Understanding, recently wrote an article for *Yale Environment 360* on how rising carbon dioxide levels may contribute to bee die-offs.

"As they investigate the factors behind the decline of bee populations, scientists are now eyeing a new culprit - soaring levels of carbon dioxide, which alter plant physiology and significantly reduce protein in important sources of pollen," she reports.

Her article points to new explanations for nutritional deficits in bees and what it means for human and environmental health. Read [here](#).

SESYNC Welcomes Ian Carroll

By Hannah Grimes
Communication Intern

The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) is pleased to welcome Dr. Ian Carroll, as our new Data Science Instructor.

The position of Data Science Instructor entails teaching workshops on cyberinfrastructure and its utilization. "I am most excited for the live teaching. It's exciting; you get immediate feedback on how well you are doing," said Carroll, who thinks his days teaching in front of groups will be his real pay-off days.

Carroll comes to SESYNC from Georgetown University, where he developed web-scraping tools as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Bansal Lab. Carroll received his Ph.D. in theoretical ecology from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2012.

Carroll was drawn to SESYNC by the "...diverse opportunities to be engaged with the environmental academic community in a way different than just being involved directly in research." Carroll looks forward to lending a unique perspective to working groups at SESYNC, as he believes his background in ecology will help connect gaps between

ecologists and data scientists.

A native Marylander, Carroll enjoys sailing and cooking in his free time. His specialty? Homemade cherry pies, with cherries picked from his wife's family farm in New York.

Dr. Kathleen Rugel Receives Policy and Practice Fellowship from SESYNC

Aquatic ecologist Kathleen Rugel has been named Policy and Practice Fellow at SESYNC. Rugel, who is currently a chemical analyst for J. Leek Associates, Inc. in southwest Georgia as well as an independent scholar, will begin her tenure as fellow at SESYNC in June. She will work on her book, *Getting to Water*, which she hopes to have published by 2019.

Getting to Water tackles the subject of the lack fresh water, which is affecting human populations and the environment and "bringing us to what is perhaps the greatest crisis of our epoch," Rugel writes. "It is now estimated that two out of three persons in the world will be living in water stressed regions by 2025 and 1.8 billion will be in an area of absolute scarcity." Rugel's book will examine solutions to how water can be shared and protected as well as positioned squarely at the front of global agendas.

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