



## SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center



### LESSONS | Applying S-E Practices In & Out of the Classroom

#### Did You Know SESYNC Has **70+** FREE Lessons on Socio-Environmental (S-E) Topics Available on Our Website?

*These lessons aren't just for the classroom—these resources can be used in workshop instruction, by individuals wanting to learn more about S-E themes, or by research groups hoping to adopt a more interdisciplinary approach.*

Each lesson uses timely, relevant S-E examples to illustrate a concept and includes:

- An explanatory overview of the topic
- Detailed learning objectives
- A list of key concepts and topics covered in the lesson
- Background reading on the topic
- Engaging group activities
- Individual exercises and assignments for thoughtful exploration
- Supplemental materials including videos, articles, and slides.

If you're interested in learning how to apply different disciplinary lenses to S-E problems; integrate interdisciplinary best practices into group work; or deepen your understanding of a specific S-E topic—like non-native species, corporate greenwashing, or environmental inequality—then explore our [lesson collection](#). See some examples below.

#### What Are Ethnographic Methods?

Learn how ethnography (the scientific study of norms and customs within specific cultures) can help S-E researchers better understand the effect of culture on environmental perceptions, values, and impacts. Learn

common ethnographic approaches and practice designing an ethnographic research strategy for a chosen culture and region. Here you'll consider the various methods that you might employ; how to approach ethnography with cultural relativism; and how to integrate Western, quantitative analytical methods with contextual, qualitative ethnographic methods that are culturally sensitive. [Learn more.](#)



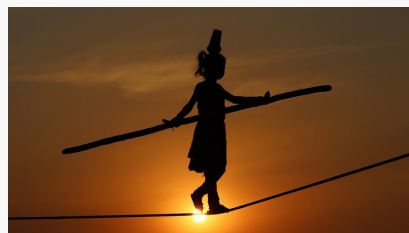
## Practicing Reflexivity & Appreciating Diverse Perspectives

Learn how a person's positionality—their experiences, expectations, social values, personal identities, and world views—influences their research and how they interact in group research. Here you'll learn the importance of considering positionality in the context of sustainability and socio-environmental problems because people's values and perspectives influence their meanings. This lesson includes a group exercise, perfect for a first class or team meeting, to help identify one's positionality. [Learn more.](#)



## Gender Equality & Environmental Health

Learn how the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal #5, Gender Equality, aims to empower women and girls through education, access to family planning resources, reduced domestic violence, and increased political representation. Inequality affects women's abilities to determine the number of children they have; improve food and habitat quality for their families; and pursue more sustainable methods of food production. As a result, in this lesson, you'll learn how these issues resonate with more sustainable environmental outcomes. Learners will investigate the challenges to sustainable development in the sectors of agriculture, fishing and aquaculture, and forestry and will develop innovative initiatives with gendered needs in mind. [Learn more.](#)



## Creating Interdisciplinary Research

### Teams, A Two-Session Exercise

Practice the art of selecting, recruiting, and synergizing an interdisciplinary research team. You'll learn that when creating interdisciplinary teams, certain strategies are important: fostering team diversity (both identity- and disciplinary-based diversity); learning empathy, interpersonal skills, and communication styles; supporting researchers across age and academic hierarchies; and integrating individual skills and styles effectively to synergize research operations. [Learn more.](#)



## Spatial Ecology Lesson: Land Sparing versus Land Sharing

Learn how in the socio-environmental realm spatial ecology sheds light on how ecosystem services like fresh air, water, and shade cover affect human groups that dwell in proximity to natural habitats. Here you'll consider two models of urban green space, land sparing and land sharing, for the evidence of their relative contribution to improved human well-being in urban areas. [Learn more.](#)



**"Biodiversity loss reduces global terrestrial carbon storage."** Published in *Nature Communications* by Sarah R. Weiskopf, Forest Isbell, Maria Isabel Arce-Plata, Moreno Di Marco, Mike Harfoot, Justin Johnson, Susannah B. Lerman, Brian W. Miller, Toni Lyn Morelli, Akira S. Mori, Ensheng Weng & Simon Ferrier. This paper resulted from the Pursuit, [Diversity in Eco-Function](#).

**"The effect of diversity on disease reverses from dilution to amplification in a 22-year biodiversity × N × CO2 experiment."** Published in *Scientific Reports* by Alexander T. Strauss, Sarah E. Hobbie, Peter B. Reich, Eric W. Seabloom, and Elizabeth T. Borer. This paper resulted from the Pursuit, [Disease, Ecosystem Processes, and Humans](#).

**"Context matters: Rethinking resource governance theories for Mongolian pastoral systems."** Published in *Land Use Policy* by former SESYNC postdoc Ginger Allington and colleagues María E. Fernández-Giménez, Robin Reid, Tungalag Ulambayar, Jay Angerer, Chantsalkham Jamsranjav, Batkhishig Baival, and Batbuyan Batjav.

**"International imports and climatic filtering drive compositional variation in non-native insect establishments."** Published in *Diversity and Distributions* by Takehiko Yamanaka, Rebecca M. Turner, Cleo Bertelsmeier, Rachael E. Blake, Eckehard G. Brockerhoff, Helen F. Nahrung, Deepa S. Pureswaran, Alain Roques, Hanno Seebens, and Andrew M. Liebhold. This paper resulted from the Pursuit, [Insect Invasions](#).

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