



SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center



LEARNING BOOST | Educational Tools for Dynamic Learning

Looking for Ideas to Make Class More Interesting, Fresh, and Fun? SESYNC Has the Answer.

Our resource collection is a great source for discovering fresh ideas for diversifying classroom activities, engaging learners in new ways, and deepening learners' thinking and understanding of socio-environmental (S-E) topics. For example:

- Our 75 **lessons** contain ideas for on-campus field trips, in-person collaborations, and projects that involve engaging with stakeholders in your local community.
- Our 40+ **explainers** include straightforward approaches for conducting successful interdisciplinary research and for considering environmental problems beyond an ecological perspective.
- Our 100+ **learning materials** allow users to watch videos that introduce them to disciplines like sociology or political ecology; listen to S-E researchers share their research journey in their own words; and discover the nuances and complexities of modeling S-E systems; and much, much more.
- Our list of nearly 1,000 SESYNC-supported **journal articles** demonstrate the wide breadth of S-E research topics and approaches.
- Our 80 **case studies** use real-world examples to illustrate important S-E concepts for students.

Want to better understand our resource types? Check out [this helpful PDF!](#)

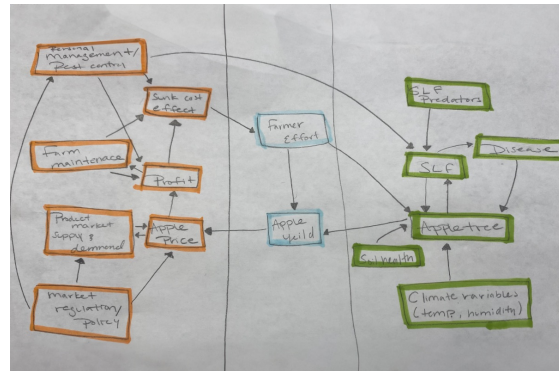
SESYNC's Three Latest Resources Are Perfect for Learners New to Socio-Environmental (S-E) Studies

Looking to introduce some basic approaches, theories, and concepts to those who are new to S-E topics? Our three brand-new resources cover the fundamentals of:

- Using mental/concept maps for collaboration
- Understanding feedbacks in S-E systems and their representations
- Defining governance in the context of S-E systems
- Considering environmental problems to be social in nature
- Understanding the concept of wicked problems and paths to solving them.

Concept Maps, Feedbacks, and Dynamical Systems

This explainer introduces concept maps, visualizations drawn to organize and represent knowledge. It gives an overview of the different components and representations of concept maps, and it explains the benefit of using such visualizations when doing socio-environmental research. [Learn more.](#)



What Is Governance? A Socio-Environmental Perspective

This brief explainer article introduces the concept of governance within the context of socio-environmental systems and problems. It differentiates between formal and informal governance, as well as the terms state and non-state actors. It introduces the pioneering work of Elinor Ostrom in the field and her institutional analysis and design framework. Finally, it provides examples of research on socio-environmental governance, as well as a list of references. [Learn more.](#)



Introducing Socio-Environmental Problems to New Learners Lesson: They Are All Social and Wicked

This lesson first seeks to challenge learners to accept that all environmental problems are social in their origin and/or consequences—in fact, many problems are both environmental and social. Second, the lesson introduces the concept of wicked problems with the goal of building understanding of the importance of individual perspectives and values in identifying, defining, and attempting to solve socio-environmental problems. [Learn more.](#)



EFI AWARD | Funding Opportunity Available

The Ecological Forecasting Initiative (EFI) Is Providing \$1,000 Awards for Five Interdisciplinary Ecological Forecasting Projects

Are you a social scientist or do you work with a social scientist? Based on the need to develop interdisciplinary ecological forecasting projects with social scientists, the **Ecological Forecasting Initiative (EFI)**'s Translation and Actionable Science Working Group is coordinating to provide **\$1,000 awards to support five Project Groups**. The awards are not restricted to just the United States or to specific career stages.

Social science is an important component in ecological forecasting in terms of increasing the predictive power of models and ensuring society benefits from science.

Each Project Group will use the award to either:

- 1) Develop a proposal for an identified external funding opportunity or
- 2) Convene a group to explore ideas and funding sources.

These activities should advance the use of social science in ecological forecasting and address ethical, methodological, or empirical gaps and advancements in the field of ecological forecasting.

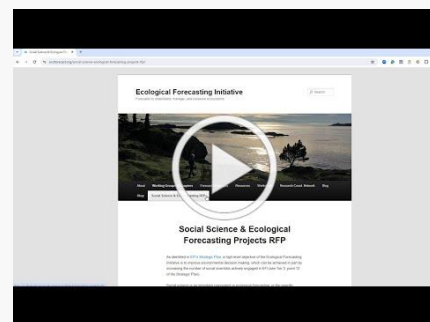
Proposals are due August 26, 2024. Awards will be announced by September 16, 2024.

Find further details about the funding opportunity, FAQs, the application form, and criteria for evaluating proposals at:

<https://ecoforecast.org/social-science-ecological-forecasting-projects-rfp/>

For more information or to share this opportunity, please see [this PDF](#).

A short, 3-minute recorded overview of the funding opportunity is available [here](#) and to the right.



YOUTUBE | 250+ Videos Available



Don't Forget About SESYNC's Collection of More Than 250 Videos on S-E Topics! Available Now on [YouTube](#)

Browse our playlists to find lectures from anthropologists, economists, sociologists, and more; tutorials on S-E modeling; research highlights; and recorded seminars and events.



[Selecting a Modeling Approach for Solving a Socio-Environmental Problem](#)



[Incorporating Behavior into Socio-Environmental Systems Modeling](#)



[A Dialogue on Indigenous Knowledge and Science in Co-Creation](#)

NEW PUBLICATIONS | SESYNC in the Journals

"Urban landscape affects scaling of transportation carbon emissions across geographic scales." Published in *Sustainable Cities and Societies* by Meen Chel Jung, Tianzhe Wang, Mingyu Kang, Karen Dyson, Emad B. Dawwas, and Marina Alberti. This paper resulted from the Pursuit, [Integrated Regional Model](#).

"Temporal dynamics of climate change exposure and opportunities for global marine biodiversity." Published in *Nature Communications* by former SESYNC postdoctoral fellow Christopher Truss and colleagues Andreas Schwarz Meyer, Alex L. Pigot, Cory Merow, Kristin Kaschner, Cristina Garilao, and Kathleen.

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