



## SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center



### SESYNC RESOURCES | Exploring Ecosystem Services

#### Check out SESYNC's Latest Resources Focused on Ecosystem Services

As the warmer weather arrives and we start to spend more time outdoors, now can be a perfect time to start thinking more about the benefits that nature provides. Our newest collection of lessons explores the concept of ecosystem services, including how we define them, how we link ecosystem processes to what humans value, and the different kinds of value that we can ascribe to nature. Learn more below.

#### Part 1: Defining and Valuing Nature

This lesson explores what ecosystem services are and are not; methods used by economists to place value on them; and why the concept of ecosystem services has become popular, including its use by policy makers and natural resource managers.

[Learn more.](#)



#### Part 2: Linking Ecosystems & Their Processes to What People Value and to Human Actions

This lesson builds off Part 1 by exploring how we



can connect what scientists typically measure when studying nature to intermediate measures that economists can work with to support evidence-based policies and natural resource management decisions. [Learn more.](#)

### Part 3: Intrinsic and Relational Values of Nature

This lesson focuses on the concept of the intrinsic value of nature and explores arguments against traditional economic approaches to valuation.

[Learn more.](#)



**Don't forget about our other resources on ecosystem services, including:**

#### Valuation of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Services: Economic Methods

This [explainer](#) discusses the valuation of ecosystem services as a way to measure individual and social preferences including:

- Why it is difficult to apply dollar values
- Non-market methods
- Examples of non-market valuation research questions
- Why value estimates often do not represent the total value of an ecosystem service.



#### Linking Measures: The Handshake Between Natural and Social Science Analysis

This [explainer](#) article defines linking measures and describes:

- Why linking measures are useful and even necessary in explaining research to lay audiences
- How to distinguish between linking and non-linking measures
- Methods for depicting outcomes that enhance social comprehension.



#### Economic Valuation of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Services

This [lesson](#) explains economic valuation methods, the data they use, their limitations, and how monetary values should be interpreted and applied.



Find more resources related to ecosystem services [HERE](#).

## NEW BOOK | Foundations of Socio-Environmental Studies

### New Book by Former SESYNC Participants Explores the Foundations of Socio-Environmental Research

Now available in the United States, this anthology convenes 53 foundational readings that showcase the rich history of socio-environmental research from the late 1700s

onwards. The book is edited by former SESYNC postdocs **William R. Burnside**, **Meghan L. Avolio**, and **Steven M. Alexander**, as well as SESYNC participants **Simone Pulver** and **Kathryn J. Fiorella**.

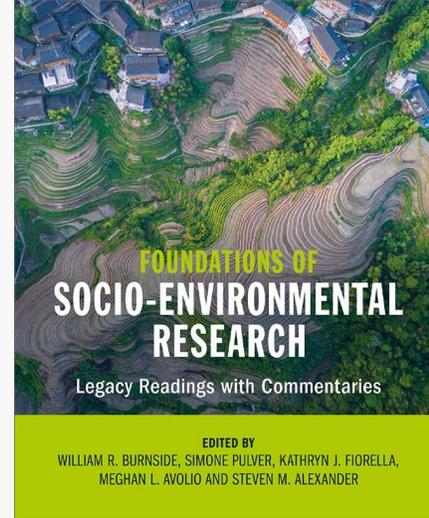
Invaluable to students, instructors and researchers alike, this canonical reference illuminates under-appreciated linkages across research domains and creates a shared basis for dialogue and collaboration.

***Foundations of Socio-Environmental Research: Legacy Readings with Commentaries:***

- Provides an informed history of socio-environmental research through legacy readings and expert commentaries
- Can be used as the basis for graduate and advanced undergraduate courses in environmental and sustainability programs
- Links the legacy readings to current approaches to socio-environmental research, providing students and scholars with a landscape view of past and present
- Acts as a springboard for advancing collaborative research by providing deep insight and common grounding to establish shared conceptual frameworks and enable interdisciplinary scholarship.

The book's table of contents, introduction by SESYNC Director Margaret A. Palmer, and first chapter are [available here](#).

For more information on the book and a discount code, [view this flyer](#).



## NEW PUBLICATIONS | SESYNC in the Journals

**"Against the odds: Network and institutional pathways enabling agricultural diversification."** Published in *One Earth* by Jennifer Blesh, Zia Mehrabi, Hannah Wittman, Rachel Bezner Kerr, Dana James, Sidney Madsen, Olivia M. Smith, Sieglinde Snapp, Anne Elise Stratton, Mohamed Bakarr, Abram J. Bicksler, Ryan Galt, Lucas A. Garibaldi, Barbara Gemmill-Herren, Ingo Grass, Marney E. Isaac, Innocensia John, Sarah K. Jones, Christina M. Kennedy, Susanna Klassen, Christian Levers, Laura Vang Rasmussen, and Claire Kremen. This paper resulted from the Pursuit, [Diversity Matters for Scaling Up Agriculture's Benefits to Society](#).

**"A mediation analysis of the linkages between climate variability, water insecurity, and interpersonal violence."** Published in *Climate and Development* by Amanda Ross, Elizabeth A. Mack, Richard Marcantonio, Laura Miller-Graff, Amber L. Pearson, Audrey Culver Smith, Erin Bunting, and Andrew Zimmer. This paper resulted from the Pursuit, [Water Conflict Africa](#).

**"Biophysical Benefits Simulation Modeling Framework for Investments in Nature-Based Solutions in São Paulo, Brazil Water Supply System."** Published in *Water* by former SESYNC postdoc Se Jong Cho, and colleagues Eileen Andrea Acosta, Claudio Klemz, Justus Reapple, Samuel Barreto, Bruna Stein Ciasca, Jorge León, Carlos Andres Rogéliz-Prada, and Henrique Bracale.

**"Operationalising adaptive governance: a research agenda."** Published in the book *Handbook on Adaptive Governance* by Barbara Cosens, Holly Doremus, J.B. Rhul, Niko Soininen, and Lance Gunderson. The book chapter resulted from the SESYNC Pursuit, [Governance for Resilience](#).

**"Footprints in Action: How UVA Is Managing Its Sustainability Stewardship."** Published in *Sustainability and Climate Change* by Elizabeth Dukes, Selina Cheng, Samuel Mogen, James Galloway, Allison Leach, Andrea Ruedy Trimble, Andrew Pettit, Jana Compton, and Michael Pennino. This publication resulted from the SESYNC Workshop, [Integrated Footprint Tool](#).

**"Integrating Programmatic Expertise from across the US and Canada to Model and Guide Leadership Training for Graduate Students in Sustainability."** Published in *Sustainability* by former SESYNC staff member, Nicole Motzer, and colleagues Aleta Rudeen Weller, K. Curran, Simon Donner, Ronald J. Heustis, Cathy Jordan, Margaret Krebs, Lydia Olandar, Kirsten Rowell, Linda Silka, Diana H. Wall, and Abigail York. This paper resulted from the SESYNC Workshop, [Graduate Leaders in Socio-Environmental Synthesis](#).

**"Views of government and non-government actors on urban forest management and governance in ten Latin-American capital cities."** Published in *Land Use Policy* by Camilo Ordóñez Barona, Ana Alice Eleuterio, Alexis Vasquez, Tahia Devisscher, Mariana Dias Baptista, Cynnamon Dobbs, Luis Orozco-Aguilar, and Elvia Meléndez-Ackerman. This paper resulted from the SESYNC Workshop, [Urban Nature Latin America](#).

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