



SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center

New Opportunity: SE SYNC Graduate Pursuit Program

"The Graduate Pursuit program presents a unique opportunity for graduate students interested in conducting team-based, socio-environmental synthesis research as they pursue doctoral degrees in social, natural, and computational fields," said Nicole Motzer, Graduate Research Assistant.

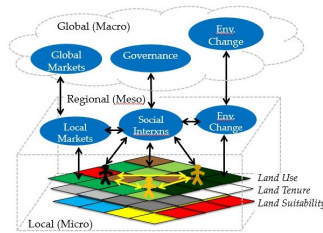
The goal of this program is to engage graduate students in team-based socio-environmental synthesis research and transdisciplinary collaboration. Teams will conduct an independent synthesis research project ("Pursuit"), which involves a series of face-to-face meetings at our Center in Annapolis, Maryland. Ideally, each project should bring together social and environmental data in novel ways to address critical socio-environmental research questions.

Selected graduate teams will not only gain skills in team science and interdisciplinary collaboration, but also have the opportunities to develop projects and contribute synthesis research findings to a growing scientific field, produce actionable outcomes and co-create knowledge with involved stakeholders, and expand scientific communities as they engage with individuals from diverse disciplines, locations, and backgrounds.

Deadline: Aug 26, 2016

Read more [here.](#)

Apply [here](#).



Neil Carter Publishes in Trends in Ecology and Evolution

A paper written by Neil Carter, a past postdoctoral fellow, and John Linnell, was published in *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*.

Titled "[Co-adaptation is key to coexisting with large carnivores](#)," the paper looks at ways to improve the ability of humans and carnivores to co-exist, which is crucial to carnivore conservation efforts around the world.

Carter began his research on this project while a postdoctoral fellow at SESYNC.

Read more [here](#).

New Opportunity: Introduction to Spatial Agent-Based Modeling

SESYNC invites applications for a 5-day short course that will serve as an introduction to the theory and practice of spatially-explicit agent-based modeling (ABM). Participants will learn the essential theoretical background and technical expertise needed to conceptualize, build and analyze your first ABM.

When: December 5-9, 2016

Deadline for applications: September 9, 2016, 5pm EST

Learn more [here](#) and apply [here](#).

Career Opportunities: Apply Now!

Science Communications Coordinator:

SESYNC seeks a full-time, experienced science communications professional to lead communications activities.

Deadline: Aug 26, 2016
Apply [here](#).

Jr. System Administrator:

SESYNC seeks a Systems Administrator to provide support for all computing resources at the center.

Deadline: Aug 01, 2016
Apply [here](#).

SESYNC Postdoc Awarded LTER Funding

Meghan Avolio, postdoctoral fellow at the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), and colleagues Kimberly La Pierre from the University of California, Berkeley and Kevin Wilcox from the University of Oklahoma, recently received funding from the Long Term Ecological Research Network (LTER).

Their project, "Integrating plant community and ecosystem responses to chronic global change drivers: Toward an explanation of patterns and improved global predictions," focuses on drivers of global change that alter resource availability. This funding will allow the group to identify patterns of how plants have changed with climate change, link these changes to alterations in carbon storage and above-ground net primary productivity, and include these deviations into ecosystem models that predict functional responses to drivers of global change.

Out of 24 distinguished groups, her group was one of three awarded funding.

Recap of Teaching about S-E Synthesis with Case Studies workshop

SESYNC brought together a team of case study authors and past short course participants for a workshop, Teaching Socio-Environmental Synthesis with Case Studies, to gather insights and best practices gained from instructors who designed and used S-E synthesis case studies. Dr. Cynthia Wei, SESYNC's Associate Director of Education, together with past short course participant Dr. Michael Deaton, professor in the Department of Integrated Studies and Technology at James Madison University, led the workshop at SESYNC June 21 through June 24, 2016.

Workshop participants reexamined broader questions about teaching S-E synthesis, beginning with the essential question: What are the knowledge and competencies students should learn? While this question has been examined before, the group articulated the basic structure for a taxonomy to organize and describe the broad suite of concepts and competencies required for understanding and conducting S-E synthesis. Such a taxonomy will be used to inform the design of instructional materials, courses, and curricula related to S-E synthesis, explained Wei. Workshop participants compiled best practices, including commonly used tools and methods in S-E synthesis case studies and approaches to address classroom challenges experienced by the participants. The group will share these insights on the SESYNC [website](#) and through written publications in the future.

Learn more [here](#).

GET MORE SESYNC

Stay Connected



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