



## SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center

SPRING 2020 RFP | Applications Due by March 30

### **Reminder: SESYNC's Spring 2020 Request for Proposals Is Open!**

The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) is currently **inviting proposals** for collaborative and interdisciplinary team-based research projects focused on socio-environmental (S-E) synthesis.

**Deadline: March 30, 2020, 5:00 p.m. ET**



## Pursuits

Pursuit teams should comprise **10-12 people**, from diverse backgrounds, to meet in intensive bursts at our center in Annapolis for **3 in-person meetings of 3-5 days each over 12 months**. We invite innovative and creative proposals on **any pressing socio-environmental problem** or on one of our Spring focal themes:

- Global Change and Health
- Socio-Environmental Implications of Large-Scale Infrastructure Projects
- Environmental Dynamics and Food Systems
- Transformative Technologies
- Demographic Shifts and Environmental Impacts
- NEON-Enabled Socio-Environmental Synthesis.

More details on the Pursuit RFP can be found [here](#).

## Workshops

Teams interested in applying for a Workshop, **a single meeting of up to 25 participants**, may focus on a broad topic or a set of related topics relevant to socio-environmental synthesis. Workshops may summarize and/or synthesize the state of the topic and/or identify future directions that have the potential to lead to a larger synthesis effort. More details on the Workshop RFP can be found [here](#).

# COMPUTATIONAL INSTITUTE | Accepting Applications Now

## It's back! Summer Institute on Cyberinfrastructure for Socio-Environmental Synthesis

July 21-24, 2020 (Optionally, also July 20, 2020 for participants with limited scientific computing experience)

**Deadline: March 30, 2020, 5:00 p.m. ET**

SESYNC invites applications to the 7th annual Summer Institute, a short course on data and coding skills for socio-environmental synthesis, held at SESYNC in Annapolis, Maryland. Applications are open to teams of 2-4 researchers who are actively collaborating on problems at the intersection of humans and the environment, but priority will be given to members of SESYNC teams. We highly encourage SESYNC Pursuit and Workshop members to apply! [Learn more.](#)



# SUPPORTED RESEARCH | Newly Awarded Graduate Projects



SESYNC announces that five new interdisciplinary graduate research projects have been supported. The selected projects were submitted through SESYNC's fall request for proposals (RFP) for collaborative team-based synthesis Graduate Pursuits around emerging socio-environmental synthesis topics. More information about the newly awarded projects can be found below.

**A Socio-Environmental Approach to Improve Offshore Aquaculture and Policy: Gulf of Mexico Case Study**

**PIs:** Nicole Barbour, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science; Ashley Bae, University of California, Santa Cruz; Amanda Guthrie, Virginia Institute of Marine Science & College of William and Mary

**Is Your Project *Just Water* or *Just Water*: Environmental Justice in Stream Restoration**

**PIs:** Lucy Andrews, University of California, Berkeley; Jessica Balerna, University of South Florida

**Pushed to the Edge: A Socio-Environmental Analysis of Climate Gentrification along the East Coast of the United States**

**PIs:** Kelsea Best, Vanderbilt University; Md Sariful Islam, Virginia Tech; Zeynab Jouzi, North Carolina State University

**Using Decision Making Models to Design Effective Policy for Natural Climate Solutions: A Case Study of Agroforestry in West Africa**

**PIs:** Millie Chapman, University of California, Berkeley; Zoe Hastings, University of Hawaii at Manoa

**Financial Opacity and Challenges to Forest Governance in Indonesia and Malaysia**

**PIs:** Jonathan Sullivan, University of Michigan; Alice Lépissier, University of California, Santa Barbara

SESYNC's next RFP for Graduate Pursuits will open mid-March, 2020. Check back soon for more details.

Workshop Spotlight | Using Public Art to Inspire Conservation



## Understanding Public Art's Role in Achieving Environmental Outcomes

Bianca Lopez, Chris Field, and Se Jong Cho, all current or former postdoctoral researchers at SEYSNC, were the principal investigators of a recent workshop working to understand public art's role in achieving environmental outcomes.

**By: Erin Duffy**

Imagine it's a bustling summer afternoon in New York City. You can hear the cars and the people as you wander down Broadway. Turning a corner, you are suddenly confronted by a flock of large birds. The flock is not one species, but many---an army of Aves measuring five stories high. You stare up at this brilliantly colored winged tapestry above you, and for a moment, you're reminded of the birds you used to hear in this part of town or the crickets that no longer chirp.

Perhaps we have all had experiences like this one with the mural of birds threatened by climate change---an encounter with art that reminded us of what we stand to lose or ignited within us a sense of urgency. If art has the ability to speak to our emotions or help us recall our pasts, does it have the power to influence our futures? That is, can art be used as a tool to call individuals and communities to action to positively influence the trajectory of our planet, and if so, can that effect be measured? These are difficult and complex questions to answer, but inspired current and former postdoctoral researchers (and artists) at the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) decided to create a workshop at the Center to try and find out. [Read more.](#)

## NEON Videos | Presentations from NEON Workshop Now Available

Did you miss our recent workshop: [People, Land, and Ecosystems: Leveraging NEON for Socio-Environmental Synthesis](#) ?

[Videos](#) of the workshop's presentations are now available on SESYNC's [YouTube Channel](#). Watch them now to learn more about the potential for NEON Airborne Observation Platform data to be used in socio-environmental research.



Follow our other social media to stay up to date on everything SESYNC-related !



## STAFF UPDATE | SESYNC Welcomes Newest Postdoc

Last month, SESYNC welcomed our newest postdoc Yoon Ah Shin. Learn more about her below.



### **Yoon Ah Shin, Postdoctoral Research Fellow**

Yoon Ah Shin finished her PhD program at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) at the University of Pittsburgh in December 2019. Using a complex adaptive system framework, her research investigated an evolving process of an inter-organizational collaboration system in response to a public health crisis. During her PhD program, she also participated in an interdisciplinary research team working to design and develop an inter-organizational communication system in response to a tsunami risk in Indonesia for the Center for Disaster Management.

Yoon Ah joined SESYNC in 2020 to participate in the interdisciplinary research Pursuit "[Putting people into climate models: A multi-model approach to integrating human behavior and climate change](#)," led by Dr. Brian Beckage and Dr. Katherine Lacasse. Learn more about Yoon Ah [here](#).

## SESYNC HAPPENINGS | Highlights from Recent Center Events



### Postdoc Designs New Course Exploring Use of Google Earth Engine

SESYNC postdoc **Varsha Vijay** recently led a **workshop** at SESYNC guiding participants through a new course she designed. Called **Google Earth Engine for Synthesis**, the course instructs users how to use the tool in socio-environmental synthesis research.



### Immersion Workshop Focuses on Environment and Public Health

In a recent **Immersion workshop on public health**, SESYNC postdocs had the opportunity to interact with **three public health scholars** whose research programs span environmental exposure, feedbacks between human health and sustainability, and mental health and cognition.



### Uncovering the Social Impacts of Winter Weather Whiplash

**Dr. Alix Contosta** presented the work her team is doing to understand "Winter Weather Whiplash," (a sudden change of weather events from one extreme to another) during a **recent SESYNC seminar**. She shared her Pursuit's efforts to define winter weather whiplash, identify its events, and understand its impacts.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS | SESYNC in the Journals

**"Using isotopes to incorporate tree water storage and mixing dynamics into a distributed ecohydrologic modelling framework."** Published by SESYNC postdoc James Knighton and colleagues in [Ecohydrology](#).

**"Actionable knowledge and the art of engagement."** Published by Katharine J. Mach, Maria Carmen Lemos, Alison M. Meadow, Carina Wyborn, Nicole Klenk, James C. Arnott, Nicole M. Ardoin, Clare Fieseler, Richard H. Moss, Leah Nichols, Missy Stults, Catherine Vaughan, and Gabrielle Wong-Parodi in [Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability](#), as part of the Foundation, [Advancing the Science of Knowledge Use Mechanisms, Applications, and Gaps](#).

**"A framework for nitrogen futures in the shared socioeconomic pathways."** Published by David Kanter and Xin Zhang and colleagues in [Global Environmental Change](#), as part of the Pursuit, [Understanding dynamic environmental and socio-economic interactions in food systems to support decision-making towards a sustainable and resilient agriculture](#).

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