

SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: O3

Novel contributions to ecosystem service research – from early-career researcher perspectives

Hosts:

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Abstract:

This session, organized by members of the Young Ecosystem Service Specialists (YESS) network, aims at sharing novel theoretical and practical approaches for ecosystem services (ES) assessments, including those addressing social participation.

ES frameworks have been gradually integrated into national management plans and regulatory frameworks to tackle local and global societal challenges such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, food security, and economic & social development. Despite the contributions of ES-based research emphasizing human dependence on ecosystems and closing gaps in the science and policy interface, stronger efforts are needed to match the urgency of the situation. Current global crises affect our connection to nature threatening socio-ecological systems through losses of biodiversity and ES. In this context, addressing current gaps and bottlenecks of ES research needs dialogues and open spaces to co-produce knowledge and generate new ideas. The perspective of early-career researchers (ECR) and peer-exchange are of special importance, as ECRs are the future generation of scientists.

This session, therefore, aims at sharing a diverse range of innovations in ecosystem services research and identifying potential research gaps, synergies, and opportunities for future collaborations. We encourage abstracts from ECRs that present novel theoretical and methodological approaches and case study examples about (the ideas include but are not restricted to) (i) novel methods or improvements of ES assessment and ES accounting; (ii) social participation and participatory processes in ES research; (iii) human-nature connectedness to ES; and (iv) ecosystem-based approaches to tackle global crises and societal challenges.

This session will follow a flexible format of presentations and speed talks closing the session with a world café. There will be the possibility to join the session virtually as well as in person.

Goals and objectives of the session:

Offering a space for YESS – ECR to share and discuss insights to overcome current challenges in ES-based research. This will be an opportunity for ECR to connect, participate and build the scientific community.

Planned output / Deliverables:

Synthesis report of the session to be published within the YESS network (e.g. through the newsletter) about novel contributions carried out by ECR to ES research. Potentially a scientific article, depending on the quality of the session outcomes and the availability of the participants. Strengthening the YESS network through peer-learning activities.

Session format:

Mix of standard session – with speed talks (50%) and a world café (50%)

Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

Related to ESP Working Group/National Network:

[Young ES Specialists \(YESS\)](#)