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Netherlands Ecological Research Network

NERN Messages

November 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

Current Themes in Ecology 2017
Innovation in Conservation; Fundamental science as a basis for sustainable conservation

(Wednesday 29 November 2017)

For many years now, scientists have studied trends of degradation and biodiversity loss, providing essential insight the consequences of these trends ecosystem functioning. Yet, how much of this fundamental scientific insight has directly led to innovations approaches in conserving our natural surroundings and the biodiversity within? This edition of Current Themes in Ecology addresses the role of fundamental science in contributing to the sustainable conservation of nature, where we focus on insights in behaviour and responses of systems, animals, and plants; meta-analyses revealing patterns that individual studies do not show; technological advances such as drones, satellite imagery, 3D scans of organisms and even whole ecosystems; and on theoretical paradigms shifting the view on conservation. Speakers include Prof Jaboury Ghazoul, Prof. Eric Higgs, and Prof Bram Büscher. Registration is open at www.nern.nl/CT2017.

Netherlands Annual Ecology Meeting 2018

(Tuesday 13 & Wednesday 14 February 2018)

The call for parallel session proposals has now closed. Parallel sessions are selected as we speak. We expect to open the call for submitting presentation abstracts today, so do keep an eye on your e-mail and on the NAEM Website. You can find more details about the general set-up of the programme, the sessions and the deadlines for submission of contributions and registration on the NAEM website.

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1. Workshops / Meetings / Symposia

- **Genotype to Phenotype Modelling of Plant Adaptation** (16 November 2017) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands.
- **Treub Symposium: Biodiversity and global change in the Tropics** (17 November 2017) @ Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

- **Symposium: Future of aquatic carbon: impacts, feedbacks and mitigation** (17 November 2017) @ Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- **WEES seminar – Microbial evolution: Taking a dip in the mobile gene pool** (20 November 2017) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands.
- **Zoology 2017: 'Genotype-phenotype map: from model systems to ecosystems'** (23-24 November 2017) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands.
- **29ste Entomologendag** (15 December 2017) @ De Reehorst, Ede, the Netherlands.
- **ECSA 57: Changing estuaries, coasts and shelf systems – diverse threats and opportunities** (3-6 September 2018) @ Perth, Australia.

2. Courses

- **GLM2017vpa: GLM for Evolutionary Ecologists** (20-24 November 2017)
  The staple of data in evolutionary ecology consist of counts, proportions and durations. Fitness, a crucial quantity in evolutionary biology, is either estimated by counting offspring or involves population dynamical modelling depending on estimates obtained with generalized linear models (GLM) and mixed models (LMM and GLMM).
- **Molecular Methods in Ecology and Evolution** (27 November 2017 - 27 January 2018)
  Molecular methods are now widely used in ecological and evolutionary studies, to answer questions ranging from the evolutionary history of populations to patterns in community ecology. How can we use these molecular tools to enhance our knowledge of population genetics, phylogeny, molecular and adaptive variation, and community structure? The objective of this course is to introduce students to a range of molecular techniques (DNA, RNA and protein- based) that are applied in ecological and evolutionary research. We will teach 'how' these techniques are properly applied, as well as their potential and limitations.
- **Statistical Uncertainty Analysis of Dynamic Models** (11-15 December 2017)
  The purpose of this course is to make the participants familiar with general statistical concepts describing uncertainty, and methods to compute prediction uncertainty coming from uncertain parameter values. We introduce dynamic input-state-output systems and methods to write your model in this format.
- **Practical Bioinformatics for Biologists** (8 January – 3 February 2018)
  Practical Bioinformatics for Biologists (PBfB) introduces students to use general computational tools to work more effectively on a daily basis. It pulls together a broad range of free powerful, and flexible tools that are applicable to geneticists, molecular biologists, ecologists, oceanographers, physiologists, and anyone interested or in need of bioinformatics in their research. It features practical use of bioinformatic techniques to solve real analysis problems.
- **Structural Equation Modelling** (22-26 January 2018)
  While much of statistics focusses on associations between variables and making predictions, the aim of structural equation modelling is to establish causal relationships between variables. The focus will be on classical structural equation models with a small number of (latent) variables, but we will also give an introduction to recent developments on methodology for high-dimensional data.
- **Introduction to Zero Inflated Models with R | Frequentist and Bayesian approaches** (29 January - 2 February 2018)
  During the course several case studies are presented, in which the statistical theory for zero inflated models is integrated with applied analyses in a clear and understandable manner. Zero inflated models consist of two integrated GLMs and therefore we will start with a revision of GLM. Zero inflated GLMMs for nested data (repeated measurements, short time series, clustered data, etc.) are discussed in the second part of the course. We will focus on zero inflated count data, and zero inflated continuous data.
- **Geostatistics** (5-9 February 2018)
  Geostatistics is concerned with the analysis and modelling of spatial variability. It also addresses how quantified spatial variability can be used in optimal spatial interpolation and spatial stochastic simulation. Fields of application include hydrology, soil science, ecology, geology, agriculture, and forestry.
- **Pre-announcement: Aquatic Ecology** (18-23 March 2018)
  Registration and more information will become available within the next few weeks

- **Mathematical Models in Ecology and Evolution** (19 March – 30 June 2018)
  The aims of the course are to teach why mathematics is so useful in ecology and evolution, to acquire the ability to read and interpret equations, and to master the art of constructing and analyzing new models.
- **Pre-announcement: Microbial Ecology** (8-13 April 2018)
  Registration and more information will become available within the next few weeks
- **Summer School: Exploring climate change challenges and solutions in the real world: from research to practice** (21-25 May 2018)
  The aim of this summer school is to introduce IMPRESSIONS methods and tools so as to demonstrate their applications through studying the impacts of climate change and socio-economic changes in Bulgarian mountains and rural communities. Deadline applications is 30 NOVEMBER 2017 instead of 30 September 2017.
- **MOOC – Landscape Restoration for Sustainable Development: a Business Approach** (continuous) @ Online
  This online course is specifically geared towards the nexus of landscapes and business. Commonland, together with the Rotterdam School of Management, Estoril Conferences, CSIC and UN's Land Restoration Training Programme, has taken the initiative to develop this course. This consortium, known as ENABLE - the European Network for the Advancement of Business and Landscape Education - aims to educate the next generation of business leaders with an ecosystems' view, ready to include landscape-related issues in their decision-making processes, thus making businesses more sustainable and a force for good.

3. Position Announcements

- **For job openings, check** our website.

4. Other News

- **NWO Visitor's Travel Grants** (Continuous application). Researchers in the Netherlands can apply for a visitor's grant for highly qualified senior researchers from abroad who hold a PhD. With this grant these researchers can stay in the Netherlands for a maximum of four months.

If you have information that you would like to have included in the NERN messages or on the NERN website, please send this information to Claudius.vandeVijver@wur.nl.