

sDiv Newsletter

sDiv is the Synthesis Centre for Biodiversity Research of iDiv

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to our second official sDiv newsletter.

Again, we have had very exciting events at sDiv, and are looking forward to even more this year. Ulrich Brose started as the new Theory Professor and will support sDiv with his expertise as well as that of his team. Most importantly, sDiv had its third call and hosted the second Joint Synthesis Consortium. If you are interested in activities @sDiv, you can follow us via Twitter with #sDiv or other project names (e.g. #sEpiDiv, our Epigenetic project was a bit active while they were here).

International Joint Synthesis Centre Meeting

In January, sDiv hosted the *Joint Synthesis Consortium* (JSC), informally founded 1.5 years ago to work and collaborate even closer together. JSC envisions an expanding network that meets the growing need for synthesis research in all corners of the globe and facilitates the participation of stakeholders from the public, private, and community sectors. JSC will work together in the upcoming years trying to foster global efforts to tackle grand challenges in science by collaborations across centres as well as with policy-relevant initiatives. Alison Specht (former ACEAS), Frank Davis (NCEAS), Andrew Campbell (TERN/ACEAS) and Marten Winter (sDiv) will serve as secretaries/contact persons of the consortium.

The consortium can now be reached via contact@synthesis-consortium.org.

Synthesis centres will be present at various conferences, such as *Future Earth – Our common Future under Climate Change*, *Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America* (ESA) or at the conference of the *European Ecological Federation* (EEF) which runs under the well-fitting title "Ecology at the Interface".

➔ www.synthesis-consortium.org

➔ www.idiv.de/sdiv/workshops/workshops-2015/ijscm



Joint Synthesis Centre Consortium @sDiv

left to right back: Todd Vision (NESCent), Margaret Palmer (SESYNC), Andrew Campbell (TERN), Claire Salomon (CESAB), Jill Baron (Powell), Helge Bruelheide (iDiv), Frank Davis (NCEAS). Left to right front: Volker Grimm (iDiv), David Hawthorne (SESYNC), Tom Meagher (EOS), Pamela Bishop (NIMBioS), Diego Steinaker (CIEE/ICEE), Alison Specht (ACEAS), James Boyd (SESYNC), Marten Winter (sDiv), Colleen Jonsson (NIMBioS), Jonathan Kramer (SESYNC).

Third sDiv Call

Following our *third sDiv call*, we received many proposals of very high scientific quality. After discussion of the internal reviews, the sDiv Committee decided to fund nine international workshops (including one workshop Postdoc) and two individual Postdoc projects (see more below). In 2016, sDiv will also host three more working group meetings from the *joint social-environmental synthesis activity with SESYNC and the UFZ*. We are looking forward to welcome all of you here.

One of our working groups (*sCHANGE "Quantifying biodiversity change through time"*) successfully applied for a second round of funding, which is jointly funded by sDiv and the Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution (*CIEE/ICEE*). We are excited about another cross-synthesis centre collaboration.



Group of *sWEEP* workshop

Upcoming Workshops 2015 / 2016

SESYNC – Acacia Invasions – *Anticipatory governance and societal feedbacks in socio-environmental transitions: multi-continental acacia invasions as a model system*

PIs: Dave Richardson, Christoph Kueffer

date: 16. – 19.02.2015

sEpiDiv – *Towards understanding the causes and consequences of epigenetic diversity*

PIs: Katrin Heer, Lars Opgenoorth

date: 02. – 06.03.2015

2nd date: 23. – 25.09.2015

sErVICES – *Can ecological network information improve the efficacy of biodiversity conservation for ecosystem services in the face of unavoidable uncertainty?*

PIs: Laura Dee, Steven Gaines

date: 16. – 20.03.2015

SESMOD – *Next Generation Models for Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity*

PIs: Elena Bennett, Gretchen Daily

date: 14. – 17.04.2015

SESYNC – Land Use – *Effects of land use on the trade-off between biodiversity and provisioning ecosystem services*

PIs: Sandra Lavorel, Ralf Seppelt

date: 20. – 24.04.2015

STUNDRA II – *Scaling shrub expansion from site to biome Manuscript finalization working group*

PIs: Isla Myers-Smith, Anne Bjorkman

date: 04. – 08.05.2015

sSTEP – *Synthesising Trait Evolution in Plants*

PIs: William Pearse, Jeannine Cavender-Bares

date: 18. – 21.05.2015

SESYNC – Human decisions & ESS – *Synthesis of micro-scale human decision making to mitigate risks to ecosystem services*

PIs: Maja Schlüter, Marco Janssen

date: 29.06. – 03.07.2015

sFIND – *Functional Information: its potential for quantifying biodiversity and its relation to ecosystem functioning. Function, Information and Biodiversity*

PIs: Keith Farnsworth, Ivo Grosse

date: 07. – 11.09.2015

sMarD – *Global Changes in Marine Plankton Diversity and Productivity*

PIs: Aleksandra Lewandowska, Boris Worm

date: 30.11. – 04.12.2015

sToichNutNet – *Linking ecological stoichiometry with environment diversity productivity relationships in grasslands*

PIs: Elizabeth Borer, Anne Ebeling

date: 11. – 14.01.2016

sNiche – *Expanding Neo-Chessonian coexistence theory towards a stochastic theory for species rich communities*

PIs: Thorsten Wiegand, Stan Harpole

date: 18. – 20.01.2016

2nd date: 06. – 08.06.2016

sPlat – *Synthesis on Pollen Limitation and Terrestrial biodiversity*

PIs: Tiffany Knight, Tia-Lynn Ashman, Janette Steets

date: 25. – 29.01.2016

sChange – *Quantifying biodiversity change through time*

PIs: Sarah Supp, Maria Dornelas

date: 22. – 26.02.2016

sCAFE – *Community Assembly and the Functioning of Ecosystems in Open Systems*

PIs: Morgan Ernest, Mathew Leibold

associated Postdoc: Kathrine Bannar-Martin

date: 29.02. – 04.03.2016

2nd date: 13. – 17.06.2016



sDiv working atmosphere



iDiv childcare

Workshop Publications

The Mycorrhizal Genomics Initiative which held a *sDiv workshop* in July 2013 published an interesting story about convergent evolution of mycorrhizal fungi in *Nature Genetics* (see [here](#)).

Also with the support of sDiv, a group of plant physiology colleagues published a special issue about Plant Physiology and Ecology at the Interface in 2015 (*Journal of Plant Physiology Issue 172*).

For more iDiv and sDiv publications, please see [here](#).

➔ www.idiv.de/sdiv/workshops/workshop-calendar

➔ www.idiv.de/en/idiv-global/publications/2015

The Fate of an sDiv Product

Alien species research makes it into application and policy...

Here, I want to report just one of the success stories of an sDiv product. *sIMPACT*, one of our first working groups, developed an unified classification scheme for alien species based on the magnitude of their environmental impacts (*Blackburn et al, 2015, PLOS Biology*, see also accompanying sIMPACT papers [here](#) and [here](#)).

Right now, a *GEO BON* working group is applying this approach to develop monitoring guidelines for *Essential Biodiversity Variables* needed to assess the impacts of those invasive species. Like the well-known Red Listing system for assessing threat of extinction, we hope that this approach will be officially adopted by the IUCN, which will help scientists and conservation managers to understand the threats posed by invasive species, and to prioritize management efforts.

The Blackburn et al. paper also made it into a *CBD document*, being part of recommended actions to be taken by the governments in order to manage alien invasive species.



Audience of Public Talk - iDiv Seminar Series

➔ www.idiv.de/sdiv/workshops/workshops-2013/simpact

sDiv Scientists

sDiv will heartily welcome three new Postdocs in 2015. *Petr Keil*, *Juliano Sarmiento Cabral*, and *Katherine Bannar-Martin* (workshop Postdoc for *sCAFE*) will join us in autumn. *Tiffany M. Knight* from the United States also started her Sabbatical position at sDiv. Great!

Unfortunately Vincent Doublet (*sTRANsBEE*), Benjamin Yguel (*sCoMuCra*) and Alexander Singer (*rangeShifter*) have left us and we wish them all the best for their future scientific careers. We also say goodbye to sDagmar Bankamp, our very first research assistant at sDiv. She has helped to build up sDiv and thus will always be a part of its history. Thanks again for everything, sDagmar!

Of course, all will remain in touch with us and working on sDiv-related scientific issues. To facilitate this, sDiv maintains an [alumni page](#) where you can contact former sDiv members.



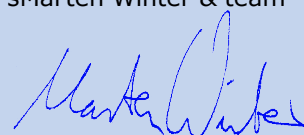
Group of sDiv Scientists

➔ www.idiv.de/sdiv/alumni

Your feedback is always welcome. Please do not hesitate to contact sMarten Winter, the Scientific Coordinator, or Carolin Kablau, sDiv secretary, at carolin.kablau@idiv.de or +49 341 9733130.

Warm regards from sunny Leipzig,

sMarten Winter & team



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Photos: iDiv