



Editorial

You have to read it! 😊 As in the past I'll use this editorial (an essay this time 😊) to give you an update on iDiv's & sDiv's future, what synthesis success stories can be and about exciting and new synthesis centres and initiatives...

[Read more](#)



Global Joint Synthesis Call

open from 15 November

Global joint synthesis call:

Interactions between biodiversity and climate change

Interested in getting a working group and a postdoc funded? Read here about a unique global joint synthesis call on “Interactions between biodiversity and climate change” across eight (8!) synthesis centres and initiatives funding working groups and postdocs across the planet...

Get
informed



Behind the scenes at sDiv

Individual Synthesis Postdoc as a Puzzle Piece in a Successful Career - A Woman in Germany's Science System

An sDiv Funded Individual Postdoc Grant

By Alexandra Weyrich



For a long time, I had no intention of making a career out of it. I just wanted to do research and work in the profession I chose to study. There are no other scientists in my family, so I was not naturally prepared for the academic system. I graduated from Johannes Gutenberg University at the age of 28 after a 4-year research stay in China. During my doctoral thesis, I encountered epigenetics for the first time and studied its mechanisms in the fruit fly. Epigenetics was still a very young field of research in the early 2000s...

[Read more](#)

sIBTEDS - Illuminating Blind Spots Through Equitable Data Reuse Practices in Underrepresented Regions

An Unusual Synflex Synthesis Project

By Stephanie Jurburg



Microbes are diverse, ubiquitous, and central to the functioning of all ecosystems. This knowledge is owed to the past three decades of advancements in sequencing technologies, which have allowed scientists to study microbes impossible to isolate or observe directly. However, the high cost of sequencing and the computational equipment needed to process sequence data have slowed the documentation, analysis, and reanalysis of microbes in underrepresented regions. Our goal with SIBTEDs is to 'close the data loop' by providing data producers with a real opportunity to benefit from the archived data through training in data reuse...

[Read more](#)

Life on the Edge: A New Toolbox to Predict Population Vulnerability to Global Change

An sDiv Funded Individual Postdoc Grant

by Chris Barratt



This journey began sometime in 2020 after way too many difficult months of being locked down due to COVID-19 in our apartment with my pregnant wife and my (then 2 year old, and thankfully now diagnosed and much happier) autistic son. The pandemic was an extremely tough time for us as a family, and we had zero space or energy for creative thinking, but as the doom slowly started to lift and we began to experience something resembling a normal existence again, discussions with my wife (also an evolutionary biologist and nature lover) began to scratch at some long-standing questions that were in my head...

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News from other synthesis centres

HEIRS - A New Synthesis Centre for Questions about Human Evolution and How sDiv Helped

By Godefroy Devevey



Just like for biodiversity, the study of human evolution gathers rare, discrete and punctual data that researchers must reconcile with global and dynamic theories. Similarly, it also mobilises distant disciplines varying from evolutionary biology to atomic physics, from ethnography to remote sensing technologies. However, in this research field the concept of research synthesis is not widespread and platforms for collaborative integrations are scarce, probably because until recently archaeological and anthropological data were essentially qualitative, and the structuration of “schools” limited circulation of ideas....

[Read more](#)



Recent sDiv call outcomes

Decisions for the 12th sDiv Call

Within the latest call, sDiv has received 11 pre-proposals for early career working groups and 22 pre-proposals for SynFlex projects. 3 applicants for early career working groups as well as 10 applicants for SynFlex projects received a positive evaluation of their pre-proposal and were invited to hand in a full proposal.

After intensive discussions of the internal and external reviews of proposals of very high scientific quality, the sDiv Evaluation Board has decided to support 1 early career working groups, 8 SynFlex projects.

Congratulations to our new sDiv working groups and future sDiv collaborators!

[Funded early career working groups](#)

The future of ecological networks under extreme climate change

PIs:

Nuria Galiana, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (CSIC), ESP
Juan David González-Trujillo, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, COL

Funded SynFlex projects

Using long-term resurvey data and biodiversity experiments to predict ecosystem consequences of real-world biodiversity change

PIs:

Yuxin Chen, Xiamen University, CHN
Donald Waller, University of Wisconsin – Madison, USA

Disentangling Drivers of Geographic Variation in Vertebrate Behaviour

PIs:

Sally Keith, Lancaster University, GB
Katharine Marske, University of Oklahoma, USA

Towards a synthesis in soil fauna macroecology

PIs:

Anton Potapov, Senckenberg Museum of Natural History Görlitz, DEU
Nico Eisenhauer, German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig, DEU

The Range Edge Dynamics (RED) Working Group

PIs:

Jean-Philippe Lessard, Concordia University, CAN
Katie Marshall, University of British Columbia, CAN

Direct and Indirect Effects of Mining on Global Ecosystems and Biodiversity

PIs:

Victor Maus, Vienna University of Economics and Business, AUT
Arildo Dias, Goethe-University Frankfurt, DEU

synthesis on tree Traits REsponse to Neighboring Diversity

PIs:

Hervé Jactel, Institut national de la recherche agronomique, FRA
Simone Mereu, National Research Council of Italy - Institute for BioEconomy, ITA

Examining Consumer Resource Exchange in Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecosystems

PIs:

Amanda Subalusky, University of Florida, USA
Elizabeth le Roux, Aarhus University, DNK
Angélica González, Rutgers University, USA

Participatory decision-making for conservation in human-wildlife conflict contexts: synthesising expertise from research and practice

PIs:

Emily Massingham, University of Queensland, AUS
Hugh Possingham, University of Queensland, AUS



Publications

sILK

Allen, K E et al. (2024) Grassroots relational approaches to agricultural transformation in Latin America. *Ecosystems and People*

sSPRINT

Cherif, M (2024) The environment to the rescue: can physics help predict predator–prey interactions? *Biological Reviews*

sCoRRE

Komatsu, K J (2024) CoRRE Trait Data: A dataset of 17 categorical and continuous traits for 4079 grassland species worldwide. *scientific data*

sTRAITS

Dechant, B (2024) Intercomparison of global foliar trait maps reveals fundamental differences and limitations of upscaling approaches. *Remote Sensing of Environment*

sRedList

Mancini, G (2023) standard approach for including climate change responses in IUCN Red List assessments. *Conversation Biology*

sTradES

Marques, A (2024) The role of nature's contributions to people in sustaining international trade of agricultural products. *People and Nature*

[sDiv on Google Scholar](#)



New PostDocs



Dr Ana Carolina Antunes (Individual Postdoc)

AmazonFlux: exploring human impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning across the Amazon forest

Dr Clara María Arboleda Baena

(Working Group Postdoc with
sIBTEDS)

Comparative Analysis of Microbial
Communities in the Global North and
South: Exploring the Interplay between Data
Availability and Mechanisms of Community
Assembly Across Biomes



Dr Karl Andrzejczek (Working Group
Postdoc with sUnderfoot)

Belowground plant strategies predict
ecosystem functioning under climate
change

Dr Anne-Céline Granjon (Individual
Postdoc)

Unraveling the relationship between genetic
diversity, the latitudinal gradient in
biodiversity, and life-history strategies.





Upcoming events

sARDINE 2 working group meeting

12/02/2024 - 12/06/2024 from 9.00am - 3.00pm

sMacrobehaviour 1 working group meeting

03/03/2025 - 07/03/2025 from 9.00am - 3.00pm

sCREATE 1 working group meeting

03/03/2025 - 07/03/2025 from 9.00am - 3.00pm

Compensation for CO₂ Emissions from Business Trips

sDiv has again compensated for the **321 tons of CO₂ emissions** generated by the business travels of our guests in 2024 and 2023. We invested **€4,830** in gold standard projects for **water filters and solar lights** in India through a certified compensation scheme.



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Halle-Jena-Leipzig**

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iDiv is a research centre of the DFG – Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.

iDiv is a central facility of Leipzig University within the meaning of Section 98 (1) of the SächsHSG ("Sächsisches Hochschulgesetz"). It is run together with the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, as well as in cooperation with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ.

The following non-university research institutions are involved as cooperation partners: the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry (MPI BGC), the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology (MPI CE), the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (MPI EVA), the Leibniz Institute DSMZ – German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, the Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry (IPB), the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) and the Leibniz Institute Senckenberg Museum of Natural History Görlitz (SMNG).

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