

yDiv course „Introduction to Integrative Biodiversity Science at iDiv“

Date: Tuesday, 4 November 2025

Location: iDiv Leipzig, room Beehive

Agenda

Time	Programme
10:00 – 10:30	Introduction to the course objectives Nicole Sachmerda-Schulz (yDiv coordinator)
10:30 – 11:00	Introduction to the iDiv mission and iDiv challenges Martin Quaas (iDiv speaker and head of Biodiversity Economics)
11:00 – 12:00	Integration across disciplines Talks by Research Groups: Biodiversity Economics (Martin Quaas) & Biodiversity Conservation (Néstor Fernández) Group discussion and elevator pitches by participants
12:00 – 13:15	Lunch break
13:15 – 14:15	Integration across complexity levels Talks by Research Groups: Environmental Sociology (Ilkhom Soliev) & Physiological Diversity (N.N.) Group discussion and elevator pitches by participants
14:15 – 14:30	Coffee break
14:30 – 15:30	Integration across time and space Talks by Research Groups: Species Interaction Ecology (Valentin Stefan) & Biodiversity in the Anthropocene (Susanne Fritz) Group discussion and elevator pitches by participants
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 16:15	Closing discussion and wrap up Nicole Sachmerda-Schulz (yDiv coordinator)

Course preparation for participants

Learning objectives

- You learn about the iDiv mission and challenges as well as different approaches to overcome integration challenges.
- You get to know each other, present your projects and discuss the integration challenges in your projects with the other participants and teachers.
- You practice to present your research to an interdisciplinary audience (elevator pitch).

Your tasks

1. Read more about the iDiv challenges on the [iDiv website](#) (section “Our Challenge Areas”).
2. Prepare one elevator pitch about your PhD project and how it is related to the iDiv challenges (you can choose one or more challenges)
 - iDiv challenges: integration across time and space, integration across complexity levels, integration across disciplines
 - No slides (but you are welcome to bring materials etc. to illustrate your project)
 - Time per elevator talk: **3 minutes**
 - Structure:
 - i. Main research question of your PhD project
 - ii. How your project is related to the challenge (*if you think your project is not connected to the challenge, please also explain this*)
 - [Please find information about the format ‘elevator pitch’ here](#)

At the beginning of the course, we will discuss which slot you will present your pitch. After each pitch, there will be a discussion with the speakers and feedback on the pitch.

Why is it important to practice such a pitch? It’s always helpful for you to have such a pitch about your research ready, e.g., at conferences and other networking events or future job interviews.

If you have any questions about the course, contact the graduate school coordinator Nicole Sachmerda-Schulz (nicole.sachmerda-schulz@idiv.de).