

October 28, 2019 Decision Science Working Group Call

Summary of the call for the Newsletter:

The Decision Science Working Group welcomed two new participants, Güray Hatipoğlu from Middle East Technical University and Chris Jones from NCSU Center for Geospatial Analytics. For much of the call, the group developed text for a Scope of Work document that defines the ongoing, short-, mid-, and long-term goals for the group and how others can get involved. Kira Sullivan Wiley and Jaime Ashander have been leading a blog post that describes areas in the ecological forecasting process where social science can provide valuable input. The text for the post is being reviewed by co-authors and will be posted to the EFI website when finalized. On future calls, the group will work to finalize the Scope of Work. The group will also consider decision science and social science connections with the RCN forecasting challenge to improve predictions and make the forecasts understandable and useful for decision making as well as to take the opportunity to study multi-model forecasts from a social science perspective. The next call will be on November 18 at 1pm US eastern. Interested participants are welcome to join.

Attendees: Guray Hatipoglu, Chris Jones, Kira Sullivan Wiley, Mike Dietze, Jody Peters, Jaime Ashander, Mike Gerst, Melissa Kenney

Agenda:

1. We had two new folks join - Güray Hatipoğlu (Middle East Technical University) and Chris Jones (NCSU Center for Geospatial Analytics)
2. Blog update - from Kira and Jaime
 - Kira and Jaime have drafted the blog with text/input from others. It is getting closer to a final draft. Jaime will send out in the next week or so.
 - Think about breaking text into a couple of posts. If there is a natural breakpoint go with it, but if not don't feel you need to break it up.
3. Terms of Reference ("scope of work", who we are, why we're doing this)
 - The partners group had created a scoping document that says what the group is doing and what their charge is. Use as a guide for conversations and providing direction for the group
 - **During this call - we added text to the draft**
 - Before making any final decisions about the text we want to let other folks in the group that weren't able to join the call look over the document and providing feedback
 - Are there processes for making decisions that we can use?
 - Rule of Conduct for EFI may be a good place to start.
 - Once OPP is reviewed and adopted by the membership, then maybe take how EFI steering committee makes decisions and see if we want to follow this format
 - Melissa sent Jody a list of people to add to calendar invites/Slack channel. Once we get a fuller group, then where are we missing

people to provide insights that we don't already have represented in the group already

- Short-, Medium-, Long-term goals
4. Update on "technical readiness standards" (Rich and Jaime as POCs)
 - The Oct 29 at 1;30 pm will be good to join in regards to the technical readiness.
 - Update on "uncertainty" discussion in Theory group (Carl as POC).
 5. Review/primer paper - Jody is leaving it in the Agenda as a reminder to come back to this in the spring
 - What is decision science for ecologists?
 - Melissa will pick this up in the spring and work with Mike Gerst and folks at U of MN.
 - Have something to present to folks at the RCN meeting. Rough first draft
 - Could take a broader perspective on the decision science toolbox
 - Original idea was for ecologists that know they want to develop something that will help people make smarter decisions, but don't know what the tools are. There is a whole suite of quant/qual analyses that could be done.
 - Use framing from Kira/Jaime's blog post. This will let us leverage what has been done and be able to use feedback/reactions to the post
 6. RCN has first meeting May 11-14 in Boulder (date/location to be determined). The following are things discussed in Sept 30 call that we want to get done/present at that meeting
 - Have the Primer
 - Build out Decision Science team to join with EFI or RCN efforts - who do we need on our team
 - What are the opportunities for social scientists to use the data/forecasts produced to look at emerging social science questions emerging.
 - Help the Partners team - when EFI launches its forecasting challenge using NEON data - we need to determine the rules for the challenge. We want the forecasts to be useful for stakeholder/end user rather than just being forecasts that are part of the challenge
 - From the Decision team - are there things that would be useful to have this group part of the discussion early on. How does this group want forecasts done, stored, archived, etc to make the forecasts useful for Decision Scientists.
 - For example: is it sufficient to store a mean and 95% confidence/credible interval? Would it be useful to have full pdfs?
 - Want the forecasting challenge to be useful for all the Working Groups
 - This will be the first genuine multi-model repeated forecast
 - Example of how EFI is going to be a new type of data for decision scientists to use
 - In RCN timeline, the year 4 meeting is designed to bring in stakeholders. But if we want it to be a truly coupled human-natural coupling, we need to bring in decision scientists and stakeholders early on in the process

- From Chris - from recent forecast project with Oregon Forestry - they saved everything because they weren't sure what they would need for post-hoc analyses.
 - Mike leans towards this as well. But if making multi-model with daily/sub-daily estimates, it may be tough to save it all.
 - Partitioning uncertainties - do the uncertainties ever change decisions? If not, then life is simple.
 - Kira will follow up with Chris to think about RCN

7. What's up Next:

- In a week-ish Jaime/Kira will send blog out to the group for friendly (non-onerous input)
 - Everyone look through terms of reference. Add comments and we'll discuss in the next call
 - Get update from Jaime on Forecasting Standards call from 10-29-19
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- Theory/CI groups will have a joint call about Forecasting Standards, will be held tomorrow, Oct 29 at 1:30pm Eastern