

December 4, 2019 Education Working Group Call

We had a number of folks unavailable for the Nov 13 Education-focused call, so we have moved the Agenda to this Dec 4 call.

Agenda:

- Cayelan's Survey for Forecasting Instructors
 - Currently survey is for instructors who have previously taught forecasting courses
 - But could be good to add a section for people who would like to and then figure out what the barriers are to not being able to teach these courses
 - Discussed questions
 - Slider bar option for background of students with math/computational vs ecology students
 - Cayelan will send out google doc with questions for the group to review
- Anna & Gretchen update on prediction/forecast definitions and forecasting project examples they have looked at
 - Has short list of EFI related topics. Now have 1 page doc summarizing prediction vs forecasting terminology
 - Tried to find examples of forecasting with people not in EFI
 - Hard to find examples where people clearly communicated the uncertainty associated with their forecasts. Most of the time it the forecasts talked about "risk". This spurred on the idea of creating a Google form to see how they are forecasting.
 - In Anna's lab - they are working on forecast-like projects, but they haven't nailed down how to handle uncertainty.
 - Uncertainty question is a really good one. VT students have been trying to put together a lit review to see if there is decision support. Clark 2001 paper - tied to ecosystem services or decision support. That part of the definition/uncertainty is rarely included in the lit review. Assessing if people if they think they are forecasting and what they think it is. Does your definition include any of these components (drop-down list) - ecological variables, uncertainty, decision support and how is that defined. Very few people encompass all those criteria
 - From Cayelan's ASLO forecasting sessions - more than half the submissions are people just using models. Hindcasting or using models to compare to data or data simulation. Not making forward projections
 - What is the end product to help with the framing and to understand how much time to put into it and what is the scope
 - What type of product do you need for Anna and Gretchen's careers? Peer-reviewed would be nice
 - Hybrid option? The Future of Forecasting is Bright, But a Bit Hazy (Title). Article for ESA Bulletin? This is a journal that has doi, goes through peer review at editorial level.

- Do we need a definition? Having a definition to point to and cite is critical.
- Write the paper that people need when they write their intro. Right now, people are plugging in Clark 2001 and Dietze. But this can give an opportunity to lay out a definition that is a bit more inclusive. Tiers of forecasting
- With the manuscript - if results are based off survey results need to get IRB approval
 - Goes along with Diversity survey question and how to get IRB approval. Do we get joint IRB approval for both?
 - If survey is just to assess what people think about their perceptions of forecasts about would be easy. One institution gets IRB and then anyone who will be making figures with the data will need IRB from their
 - Get CITI training now. Then go to IRB and get the exemption
 - Don't assess anyone under 18 and don't assess personal info and don't ask infants and pregnant individuals
 - Think about questions and have survey ready and then apply for exemption
 - Could do this without the survey if needed to
 - Survey people based on NSF award database?
 - Macrosystems, ISER, OSH, DEB (search term of NSF "forecasting" brings up alot of EFI folks with grants. When Cayelan did this search, the first 10 results were largely people already involved with EFI)
- Think about survey recruitment - survey EFI members vs ecologists as a whole
- Anna and Gretchen were thinking of creating a Google form to survey people with EFI projects that are happening throughout the community. 10 question survey
 - What is your interest in forecasting (expect there will be high interest - but not many people actually doing it)
 - Reference group that have not worked on forecasting
 - This survey may end up going to a larger group of people - for example - send it to those who use "forecast" in their NSF award abstracts.
- Next Step
 - Anna and Gretchen will talk further and will send out their ideas to the group
 - Write a letter of inquiry to the editor if we want to pursue the ESA Editorial
 - Jody will send Kira's survey to the group and include Kira on the email to keep everyone in the loop

- STC - supporting the writing effort - add this type of effort into the education section. Defining the field is our goal and the STC is supporting grad students who are working on this.