

June 16, 2021 Social Science Working Group Call

Attendees: Kira Sullivan Wiley, Melissa Kenney, Jaime Ashander, Jody Peters, Güray Hatipoğlu
Regrets: Cindy Hu

Agenda/Notes:

1. Next steps - what are the priorities for the group? Ideas?
 - The doing of Social Science. There hasn't been a selection of people from this group to do social science research on ecological forecasting processes with the potential to use the NEON Forecasting Challenge
 - Opportunities for social science to participate, but without funding, resources, courses that could incorporate it
 - Write a paper/overview/doc on social science in ecological forecasting
 - Bring in more social scientists into the group
 - The RFPs for NSF, NASA forecasting or where forecasts can be applied are disciplinary, not interdisciplinary so it is hard to bring people in
 - Melissa is working with Mike Gerst on forecast visualization using funds they have hand, but don't have funds for collaborations with EFI currently. Need to have research proposals to do social science research
 - Barriers - typical RFPs that are disciplinary focused have anything that would be included on the social science side is considered a broader impact and is not looked funding actual social science research
 - Kira's experience with DISES Coupled human and nature RFP this year - they were interested in forecasting to be included in the proposals and has a social science component to it
 - Melissa's goal is to connect with agencies to work to change the RFP and work to influence having more money to forecasting. Given her activities on that work, she will be less available for this and Partners working group meetings
 - On alternative option to consider is Cooperative Agreements - unique funding mechanism. It is non-competitive. You compete for the mechanism and then once you. A page per 100,000. Short proposals and task oriented compared to traditional grant proposal. It allows you to collaborate with federal agency partners. Meet biweekly/monthly throughout the time period which makes concrete tasks moving forward. It is a collegial co-production process. It is a lot of coordination and effort throughout.
 - This type of activity can accelerate the operations for forecasts or research to forecasts.
 - Is there any space to look at the process of co-production in the Forecast Challenge? Is there any internal funding? Have a month of funding to organize a meeting in year 4. Have budget for a workshop that was thinking would be

focused with 15-20 people to do a deep dive, but not sure what the form will actually take for that meeting - will depend on

- USA NPN is willing to operationalize the Phenology forecasts (but they got their budget cut by 25%, so still up in the air)
 - Co-production is challenging because NEON site is chosen to have limited human impact. So will need the challenges to be scaled to be applicable more broadly.
 - How to catalyze what NEON does to scale and create. How generalizable is the methods, approach for creating the forecasts in the Challenge?
2. Topic for future meeting - how can we develop collaborations and research projects.
- Explore or develop a strategy for how to engage more social scientists in ecological forecasts and what that looks like (put this on the Agenda for the next month).** If Melissa (and others she is working with) is successful at getting RFPs reframed to be more disciplinary, then in the next year, the RFPs will come out so we want to make sure EFI social science is really present when those opportunities come out.
- These Partners group is also working to figure out how to expand that group. Add a note to the Partners group Agenda about this - is this something the Partners group is available to help promote?
 - Figure out how to go where the social scientists are (they aren't typically going to ESA, so strategize where to go to reach out to social scientists where they are at).
3. Jody will send out the poll again to see if we can find a better time that works for Cindy and Jaime
4. Visualization Best Practices Brainstorm
- Bibliography of resources and Google folder with pdfs listed in Bib
 - Cindy added this Google doc to the Bibliography with data viz principles including Bertin's semiology and Tufte's main design principles
 - Update about the Visualization, Decision Support Tools, User Interfaces Task View and options for the group to participate
5. Blog Post Updates
- Mike Gerst
 - Jaime - I should resurrect this ... maybe next week =)
 - Güray - have a final post ready!
6. Joint Social Science/Partners Call Ideas - Plan to meet in September?
- Google doc with Joint Call Ideas
 - The Partners group is planning to host a panel on science communication that would be good to use as a joint call with the Social Science group.