

June 21, 2022 Translation Working Group Call

Attendees: G ray Hatipođlu, Kira Sullivan Wiley, Charlotte Malmborg, Chris Brown, Jody Peters, Jaime Ashander

Regrets: Mike SanClements, Cliff Duke

Agenda

1. Is there a formal process for nominating/voting on chairs?
 - a. Think it is good to have a process for people to nominate themselves and have a poll go out.
 - b. Kira is happy to chair for a little while but also happy to have other lead
 - c. Kira will lead for today. Then will follow up with Steering Committee to check in about a process. Then discuss on the next meeting.
 - d. Each WG has their own process - we don't have an overarching process.
 - e. Any preference for the process for this group to use?
 - f. In the follow-up email encourage people to nominate themselves to be Chair and then on the next call have a formal or informal approval process.

2. During the EFI Conference, Jake Zwart wondered if anyone had experience working with Forecasting for Social Good. <https://www.f4sg.org/>. Wondering if anyone in this working group has experience with F4SG?
 - a. Parent group is International Institute of Forecasters (IIF)
 - b. Looks interesting, but would like to know more.
 - c. Think maybe it is forecasting of things like meteorology
 - d. Think there are interesting connections between the AI for Good and the IIF
 - e. If we connect with this group - would want to connect on the AI for Good idea.
 - f. If we are thinking about making ecoforecasting more actionable or bringing in decision science tools, if people in the broader forecasting community focus on non-ecological. Then think about combining those non-ecological forecasts with ecological forecasts.
 - g. This could be a place to connect to create social and ecological models
 - i. Chris' example of sharing harmful algal blooms with local businesses so those group can promote activities other than going to the beach since the beach will be closed.
 - h. We talk a lot about decision tools and less about interpretation of the decisions. Feels like every decision tool should come with an interpretation tool. If people get used to seeing different forecasts then don't think they will be thinking about considering the different uncertainties with each forecast. Have an interpretative part so people can use the forecasts most usefully.
 - i. Think this is a philosophical discussion but wonder about how to connect to actual people using the forecasts
 - i. What counts as a decision tool - could be information presented in a certain way, but not actually be a tool. Decision tools need to be done with the audience who

will use it. There needs to be additional work done so there is a mutual understanding of what a forecast means.

- j. Have to visualize the forecast so people can understand/interpret it clearly. And there needs to be uncertainty incorporated.
 - k. Have user and know what they want - have a forecast that is fit for a purpose. Have to have a process in place.
 - l. **Next step for To Do List** - have the working group explore the group further to know what they offer (best practices?) or is it a community group? There could be some generalities that we could all benefit from.
 - m. Forecasting for the public - it is intuitive to want to create forecasts for the public, but the process is more tricky.
 - i. Does anyone know are there historians of forecasting interpretation?
 - ii. Now it is part of the cultural norm - (e.g., The Weather Channel). But early on there must have been the conversation about how to share the forecasts.
 - iii. From the user side - what was done and what was the stumbling blocks. What worked and what were the mistakes?
 - 1. Maybe Melissa or Mike Gerst would know a good resource for this.
 - n. Cooperation and Coproduction - is there any scientific work or survey work on who is using forecasts or who is not using them for forecasts produced by NOAA or other organizing. Over the last year in NOAA there has been a concerted effort to find out who was using the data for Harmful algal blooms, vibrio. Is this effort internal to NOAA or would it be possible for the group to learn about it at some point?
 - o. NASA funded a collaborative grant to understand the value of remote sensing information.
3. Merging of Social Science and Partners Terms of Reference - don't want it to be a long process
- a. Want a work plan for the group to work on.
 - b. ToR - here are the things we care about. But then focus on the work plan to give direction for the group
 - c. Next time review the Strategic Plan that the Steering Committee has developed - this gives priorities for EFI in the near and medium term (~10 year) time range
 - d. On the next call, Kira will propose some ideas for the work plan based on the three ideas presented on the last call
 - e. Can also incorporate time during each meeting for discussions on topics of interest to people that have come up over the past month
 - f. Discuss the 3 ideas on the next call
4. Notes from the Whiteboard for Theory WG Breakout from the Conference
- a. Kira had a chance to talk to Juniper Simonis and others during the Translation working group breakout

- i. Forecasters don't do comms very well. Communicating out what you are doing. Whose responsibility is it to communicate the science? The scientists? The media?
 - 1. Knowing when and where there is political strife or political situation that lays over an ecological forecast and may influence how the forecast is interpreted. The forecast creator may not be aware of the political context so there may need to be some sharing of information and figure out who the forecaster should work with to know about what is going on.
 - 2. Can broaden this out from political to economical.
 - 3. Another aspect is the liability. If there is an economic fallout the person who gives the forecasts can get sued. The government can't be sued so that is why NOAA can send out forecasts.
- ii. Güray has an idea about co-production and communication of forecasts. Güray is working on projects with social integration with environmental problems. There are citizen scientists where co-production or user experience can be done with citizen scientists. Let the user determine how the forecasts is applied.
- iii. Can find examples or identify organizations where citizen scientists have previously connected for co-production and targeting users.
- iv. Think it would be good to spend some time to go through project report archives for projects related to forecasting to see where co-production or science communication has been tested on the ground
- v. Would like to know how ecological forecasts are used now
- vi. At what level of organization or geographical scale does this happens? Are there more common practices that are typical or used across science for products used from ecological forecasts.
 - 1. Think there is room for understanding or digging to know how ecological forecasts are being used and who is using them at what scale
 - 2. From Güray's [blog post](#) - there were some examples related to this, particularly in regards to harmful algal blooms (red tides)
- vii. How has translation happened in the past in this field - foundational question for the group
 - 1. Need to decide what focus the group would want to take - general information for internal group or larger project for manuscripts.
 - 2. Kira will put this on the proposed work plan
- viii. Next time
 - 1. Chair
 - 2. EFI Strategic Plan impacts on Translation working group
 - 3. Translating that into a workplan

5. Interests across the group

- a. Providing guidelines to EFI about how physical scientists can connect with social scientists and what that sort of collaboration or co-production would look like. We can talk about what this would look like more, but as Mike was talking I was imagining a written document, but also one or more seminars to showcase what social scientists are doing and the benefits of collaboration and how to go about setting up collaborations.
- b. "AI for good" and considering the social impacts of AI and forecasting - who is participating in the analyses and conversations. And diving into topics like the transparency of decision support tools, who is accountable for poor environmental outcomes, and what makes a decision support tool considered legitimate in the eye of the user.
- c. Using citizen science as a way to connect with social science in understanding how to engage and retain citizen scientists in a project and considering how citizen scientists can be instrumental for ecological forecasting.
- d. Input and thoughts on how to improve the use of science to inform endangered species decisions is always welcome and appreciated