

January 10, 2023 DEI Working Group Call

Attendees: Anna Sjodin, Jason McLachlan, Jody Peters

Agenda/Notes:

1. [Applications](#) are open June 21-23, 2023 [EFI Unconference](#) at NEON HQ in Boulder, CO Save the Date. **Applications are due February 1**
 - a. Goal: Bringing People Together to Do Forecasting: Training, Technology, Theory, and Translation
 - i. Participants will work together to produce products they want to work on. Examples are (but not limited to): getting a forecast up and running, developing teaching materials, finalizing tutorials, refining or creating tools, analyzing forecasts for a manuscript, and/or developing visualizations.
 - ii. The event will also include a poster session for attendees to present their research.
 - b. Travel funds within the US are available
 - c. Space is limited to 50 people.
 - d. Specifically, for this group - if the group can come up with a task that can be worked on during the meeting that would be great. Right now, the application to attend is due on Feb 1. But the nominations of project ideas is not due at that time. So the group will have more time to think about specific project ideas to propose.
 - e. Project idea example: Think about how to make the Forecasting Challenge more accessible
 - f. RCN grant was connecting NEON and Forecasting. But the larger goal is that we want to bring people together to think about what is the most robust way we can take ideas and make them most useful for communities who have not been involved.
 - g. Could propose to create an Rmd for generating EPA water quality reports that Tribal communities want - this is a concrete project proposal that would be great for the Unconference
 - i. This project builds off the work Jason and others have done through Sloan funding this past year and connects to new Sloan funding
 - ii. Could possibly have people who work on this project during the Unconference who can be mentors for the Sloan summer research projects in summer 2024
 - iii. Want projects that students feel connected to the topic and at the same time provide support for them as they have
 - iv. Thinking in forecasting framework is what excites Anna the most - it involves critical thinking and self reflection and values and if decisions reflect values

2. After our December call, Anna shared books by the [Critical Ecology Lab](#) that we wanted to share with the group in case you didn't see it on Slack
 - a. The Critical Ecology Lab is a nonprofit, hybrid academic and social change group conducting research on social oppression and environmental degradation and change. It is a group of environment-minded scientists, social science researchers, critical scholars, and activists gathered around the goal of realizing a just, equitable, and ecologically sustainable future in which Black and brown people are not systemically oppressed.

3. Next Steps for Barriers to Inclusion in Ecological Forecasting Blog Post
 - a. Discuss Table that brings together the idea of the wheel of power and privilege and the medicine wheel together - see Slide 5 on the Google slide_with alternative images
 - i. Antoinette was going to work on drafting a figure that represents the info in the table on Slide 5
 - b. Plan for the next call is to check in with Antoinette and then work as a group to finalize steps needed to get the post out.

4. Other notes from today's call
 - a. Jason has new funding from Sloan that includes Nievita Bueno Watts, Antoinette Abeyta, Georgia Smies, Diana Dalbotten, Melissa Kenney and new collaborator Al Kuslikis from the American Higher Education Consortium
 - i. The grant is focused on education and coming up with curricula and exercises focused on Indigenous communities and Native culture
 - ii. Will have a postdoc to help coordinate the educational materials
 - iii. Want to find out what our partners/Tribal College educators want for educational materials and how we can help develop that
 - iv. Haven't done a survey of what people want for educational materials related to coding and data science and forecasting and would be good to know what the priorities are for TCUs
 - v. There will be writing exercises and code. The goal is also to focus on pedagogy and broadening the tent.
 - vi. If we had some ideas from the Sloan project, we think that would give us something concrete to propose to see if people in the DEI group wants to participate on in a low stakes way similar to what it has been
 - vii. Example - from work with Georgia, Tribal communities want R code to be able to create water quality information for the EPA reports. This could help us generate something useful for Tribes to use. Then in the Sloan grant we are thinking of connecting that to educational
 - viii. Q: Why use R to generate the report?
 1. Tribes work with EPA - if they create the reports then they can get funding to help with water quality.

2. Tribal governments don't have people to create the reports so have to hire outside consultants who can be exploitive. So want to make it possible for people within the Tribes to be able to do this.
 3. Also if students or people within Tribal governments can make graphs that can be shared at Tribal Council meetings that can make a big impact
- ix. There is also a student mentoring program that is part of the grant that Diana will be leading and there is funding to support 12 students in summer research positions.
- b. Another thing that will happen this spring is that Jason is working with Ryan Emanuel at Duke to put in a proposal that focuses on environmental justice for a Geoscience Alliance meeting. This can be an opportunity for this group to participate
 - c. Another option for an activity for one of our group calls could be to listen to (during/before??) an Ologies podcast and discuss on one of our calls:
<https://www.alieward.com/ologies/criticalecology>
 - i. This is the podcast that Anna learned about the Critical Ecology book suggestions listed in point 2 above.
 - ii. There is also another episode with Robin Wall Kimmerer