May 23, 2023 Translation Working Group Call

Attendees: Jody Peters, Kira Sullivan-Wiley, Clifford Duke, Jonathan Cummings, Charlotte Malmborg, Chris Brown, Michael Gerst
Regrets: Alison Gerken, Melissa Kenney

Agenda

1. Schedule of calls for June to August. Can we keep the same 3pm US ET time for June 13, July 18, and Aug 15? Decision - Keep the same time for June, July, and Aug and go with those dates.

2. The EFI DEI working group just published a blog post last week about [Barriers to Inclusivity in Ecological Forecasting](#) that includes considerations for co-production, that seems to overlap with what this group has been talking about as well.
   a. Michael would be happy to engage more; Chris will take a look at it. Has a few financial burdens that people often look. E.g., Summer internships are volunteer that people can't afford

3. Follow-up to the priorities identified for translation needs on: Helping colleagues find collaborators across disciplines (i.e., matchmaking) as well as providing guidance on what makes a fruitful multi-disciplinary collaboration
   a. 3 tasks identified on the April 25 call
      i. Compiling list of funding opportunities for cross-disciplinary work or work requiring end users or stakeholders. ***Action Item for the group - continue to population***
         ● There are some agencies that explicitly fund partnerships between academia and gov't (Kira will look for what she has seen in the past)
         ● NSF Coupled Human and Natural funding has now become DISES which is listed
         ● Other CASCS (NW, NE, …) likely have the same resources as the Midwest CASC
      ii. Exploring types of databases to use for matchmaking. ***Action Item for the group*** - share what has been found (see the list below in point b)
         ● 3 potential ways to access/use the database
            ○ Internal access for Translation working group, DEI working group, Steering Committee to view individuals and make connections
            ○ External access for anyone across EFI to see who else is in the network
            ○ Even more external - people outside the EFI community can see what people within the community are working on to explore options to connect

- Do we want to create our own, start from scratch? Need someone with the expertise to set it up and to manage it.
- Nice to use an existing database so we don't need to start from scratch and then incorporate the EFI network.
- Connect people, projects, and funding
- This stemmed from the matchmaking. Currently we have a log of members that is incorporated into a map. Is there functionality that modifies what our existing model can't do?
- One issue is that people are not EFI members are not on the map.
- Haven't done this before, will be difficult to know if there is value to invest in infrastructure to do this or to build a list outside of EFI.
- Start with easy infrastructure and easy pool of people. How does the interaction structure work and learn from the participation early on and build out slowly
- Would need to check with members about if they are willing to be part of a member.
- SSEER - inclusion in a searchable database. Similar to what the kumu has
- Do reach out to EFI members/newsletter check on interest to be in a database - this is separate from the membership. For example, there are 7 questions.
- This assumes it is easy to update the structure of the database. It isn't too hard to update the membership form, but would need to work with the individuals that set up the map to update that.
  - From Kira: Could also look into how easy to do using [ArcGIS online (free)](#)
  - Kira started a list of questions
- Chris, Jody will meet with Jonathan Mote at NOAA. He is interested in tying together networking. His job is to connect stakeholders and users within the weather community. We will be picking his brain to see what has worked with them and if there are things that overlap with what we are thinking about for networking.
- Next steps - the Steering Committee will be meeting to talk about the Strategic Plan which this seems to fit with nicely. We'll bring this up to the Steering Committee to discuss options further in regards to need, funding sources for any database that costs money, and time/personnel to lead this effort

iii. Hosting a virtual event (target for first event is this fall, but thinking to host 2 calls a year). *Action Item for the group* - continue to discuss details about purpose and structure, who will facilitate, advertising/inviting participants, and connecting with the work on the tutorial about decision making

- We didn't talk about details about this action item on the May call. But instead moved to discussing ideas for the tutorial listed in point 4 below.

FYI - Wildlife Society Conference Opportunity for assistance with a current or potential match:

"Ask a Decision Analyst," organized by Rachel Katz, will offer participants 45-minute coaching sessions with a qualified, early-career and/or expert decision analyst. This session serves two main goals: 1) Provide guidance on appropriate decision-making tools consistent with decision theory to conference attendees, particularly students, researchers, and wildlife managers 2) Train early career decision analysts in rapid prototyping using facilitation and coaching best practices. Participants can discuss upcoming wildlife management decisions and decision analysts will offer insights related to which steps of the decision-making process are the biggest hurdles to finding robust solutions, how to improve a collaborative decision process, and/or specific guidance on which decision analysis tools may be most useful. Our intent with this workshop is to focus on applied decision problems. Interested participants with questions that are primarily research in nature are highly encouraged to pair with a manager for the session to ensure conversation accurately reflects real-world barriers and that potential solutions are actionable in nature. Rachel is seeking both decision analysts (student/early career/expert) and participants for the session, which will take place during a regular conference day (TBD). Please consider volunteering for this pilot session (first time being offered) by July 15 by emailing Rachel Katz (rachel_katz@fws.gov) with your interest (indicate your interest as participant or decision analyst).
Notes: TWS Biometrics working group had an Ask a Modeler event at a previous conference so this follows up on that. Goal is to have a predictor, forecaster, and manager coming together so set up as a post matchmaking thing. Not sure if there is a website for this yet. If/when a website becomes available for this event, Jonathan will share it with the group.

4. Follow-up to the priorities identified for translation needs on: How to understand stakeholder decision making processes?
    a. Developing a stakeholder decision-making process tutorial. Needs from this group - what would this tutorial look like? What all goes into understanding decision making? What is a common set of terms and concepts, as well as a common understanding of how much effort is involved?
        i. Could record the tutorial and post on YouTube and then have people view that prior to the virtual event where people pitch half baked ideas
        ii. Note from Kira from the April call that will be good to include in the tutorial: Why it is important to engage with decision making? Because it helps you understand the limits to making a decision. How good does your science need to be to make decisions and change the decision? How much effort needs to be put in? If you aren't changing the decision, then you don't need to put in extra effort to make something actionable
    b. Want to compliment the matchmaking process.

c. Could be making sure people are speaking the same language when they reach out. Or having a similar conceptual model
d. Making sure priorities align with multiple partners needs and understanding limits of the partners (e.g., Tribal partners legal needs and data sovereignty)
e. Standard practice for working across types of partners/organizations
f. Being aware of the timescale that different organizations work on
g. Do we know what we think people will get out of the tutorial?
h. Who is the average user (or 3-4 archetype member) for this tutorial?
    i. Modeler who hasn't engaged with social scientist and a desire to learn
    ii. Social scientist who haven't worked with a modeler
    iii. Demand has been from the modeler side - we think what we have is relevant to decision makers, but how do we make it usable
    iv. How to go about engaging?
    v. 2 needs: Co-production/engagement piece and aspect on decision making
    vi. Show examples of successful co-production from the literature to point to
    vii. Are we going to give people enough info so they can bootstrap their own project or help them set up engagement with social scientists
        ● Kira's example - deep dive with end users. When do you not need to do a deep dive with local users vs when do you need to do a deep dive with local users?
        ● Put on the guardrails - under what conditions or at what levels is it important to connect?
        ● Do your homework piece and then from your homework where will that take you?
        ● People who do evaluation on co-production, the science has evolved so we have a better handle on when you should do it and when you shouldn't
i. Are modelers looking more for social scientists and looking for co-production or vice versa?
    i. From EFI impression is that it is the modeling side that is looking for social science input
    ii. Social scientists aren't looking for stakeholders
    iii. Identify a gap and then social science is happy to work with that
    iv. Kira and Michael both have had the experience where people have searched them out to get social science input
    v. Jonathan - In my experience w/ marine fisheries and federal wildlife conservation it is mostly modelers recognizing they need assistance with the decision and management process aspect of a project and/or decision scientists selling management agencies on the importance of the tool that leads to co-production

5. Another resources from previous calls: Compilation of notes from the Social Science and Partners working group calls where matchmaking was discussed