

July 17, 2023 DEI Working Group Call

Attendees: Alyssa Willson, Mary Lofton, Gerbrand Koren, Jody Peters, Antoinette Abeyta, Jason McLachlan, Sean Dorr, Anna Sjodin

Regrets: Olivia Tabares

Agenda/Notes:

1. Olivia's ESA presentation will highlight EFI projects. What input does Olivia need?
 - a. Here's the Abstract (Final version)
 - b. Here are the Slides (work in progress)
 - c. Olivia is traveling so we will follow up via email to get input on what she needs for her slides.
2. Unconference Recap and Next Steps for Barriers to Inclusion in Ecological Forecasting Blog Post
3. Slides Cazimir shared during the call with a recap from the Unconference work
 - a. Sean is planning to use this as a case study of the values centered design as a theory for a dissertation chapter/publication
 - i. Opportunities for focus groups to assess EFI activities
 1. People signed up to participate in focus groups at the Unconference
 2. We talked about reaching out to the RCN Steering Committee
 3. And we want to give people in the DEI working group the opportunity to participate in a focus group
 - b. Assess where we are before moving forward. Keep an eye out for how inclusivity shows up in our work
 - c. Jason is teaching a course this fall on data science and environmental justice. Goal is to take lessons learned from the Unconference to the class to develop materials
4. Next steps/manuscripts
 - a. Nick Record expressed interest in taking the lead in moving the blog post forward to a manuscript. He doesn't have time this summer, but perhaps in early fall. So we will want to continue to connect with him
 - b. Sean will lead a paper for his dissertation on advancing the design justice principles theory
 - c. Caz would be willing to help with a manuscript related to inclusive teaching, but doesn't plan to be first author
 - d. From Alyssa - See that there is the opportunity to formalize what the Unconference group did as applied to ecological forecasting or ecology more

broadly. Haven't seen anything like this the ecological literature yet. Want to get the idea out there and have people adopt the framework.

- i. This is the paper Sean is planning for the fall
- ii. But thinking about something like a 10 simple rules paper - similar to Maria Mriti's papers from 2020/2021 on a framework for including
 1. Manoomin paper is similar to this - this is the 10 things we learned from this collaboration
- e. Gerbrand - happy to contribute as well. How to make things better - focus on the positive
- f. Is there a hierarchy between the 10 points? No hierarchy
- g. Need to get focus groups scheduled
 - i. Mary is happy to help with the focus groups
 - ii. Sean is going to work on the IRB this week
- h. Need for 2-3 people for the focus groups
 - i. Mary/Caz are willing to help take notes
- i. Sean will send out a short recap of what he is planning to do that is concrete
- j. The group had talked about a blog post to share what we are talking about in regards to EFI forecasts - Mary had written some notes about this and will follow up about ideas on the next call after connecting with Caz in the next couple of weeks

5. Summary paragraph from the Unconference

Group 21: Towards principles for designing inclusive ecological forecasts

Participants: Anna Sjodin, Mary Lofton, Sean Dorr, Jody Peters, Jason McLachlan, Cazimir Kowalski, Melissa Kenney, Katie Jones

Our group is interested in exploring opportunities for improving inclusivity in ecological forecasting. Through discussion, we identified the ten principles of Design Justice (Box. 1) as a potential mechanism for evaluating the inclusivity of forecast products, services, and systems.

Box 1: Design Justice Network Principles, reproduced from designjustice.org/read-the-principles. To learn more, please visit the Design Justice Network website (designjustice.org) or see *Design Justice: Community led practices to build the world we need* by Sasha Costanza-Chock (<https://designjustice.mitpress.mit.edu/>; open access pdf version is available here:

https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12657/43542/1/external_content.pdf).

1	We use design to sustain, heal, and empower our communities, as well as to seek liberation from exploitative and oppressive systems.
2	We center the voices of those who are directly impacted by the outcomes of the design process.
3	We prioritize design's impact on the community over the intentions of the designer.
4	We view change as emergent from an accountable, accessible, and collaborative process, rather than as a point at the end of a process.
5	We see the role of the designer as a facilitator rather than an expert.
6	We believe that everyone is an expert based on their own lived experience, and that we all have unique and brilliant contributions to bring to a design process.
7	We share design knowledge and tools with our communities.
8	We work towards sustainable, community-led and -controlled outcomes.
9	We work towards non-exploitative solutions that reconnect us to the earth and to each
10	Before seeking new design solutions, we look for what is already working at the community level. We honor and uplift traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge and practices.

As a first step towards applying the Design Justice principles to EFI-created products, services, and systems, our team evaluated to what degree the ten principles were evident in the design of the EFI-NEON Forecast Challenge. We identified several ways in which the design of the Challenge was well-aligned with Design Justice Principles (e.g., Principle 4: We view change as emergent from an accountable, accessible, and collaborative process, rather than as a point at the end of a process.), as well as areas in which we thought we could improve.

Moving forward, we are soliciting broader participation from all EFI community members in small focus groups to continue our internal evaluation of the inclusivity of current EFI products, with the ultimate goal of furthering the inclusivity of ecological forecasting by developing recommendations towards a more complete alignment of EFI-designed products with design justice principles. If you are interested in participating in such a focus group, please provide your contact information in the Google Form linked here.