October 8, 2024 Translation Working Group Call

Attendees: Hannah O'Grady, Anna Sjodin, Jody Peters, Kira Sullivan-Wiley, Abby Keller, Charlotte Malmborg, Alexis O'Callahan
Regrets: Chris Brown

Agenda

1. Social Science in Ecoforecasting Planning Awardees and opportunities for connections
   a. Details about each group at: https://ecoforecast.org/social-science-ecoforecasting-rfp-awardees/
      Evan Bowness (The University of Western Ontario, Canada) and Magali Nehemy (Trent School of the Environment) – T-SECA: Transdisciplinary Social-Ecohydrology for Community Adaptation in the Brazilian Amazon
      i. Develop proposal for an already identified funding sources
      ii. Ethical transdisciplinary sustainability research is vital to support communities in the Brazilian Amazon, home to the world's largest tropical forest and over 28 million people. Severe hydrological events, worsened by climate change, threaten these communities. T-SECA is co-led by the Indigenous Mundurukú community and will develop strategies for adapting to increasing threats of drought. Combining visual social science and ecohydrology, the project assesses vulnerabilities, identifies policy gaps, and co-develops pathways for community resilience.
      iii. Note from Evan - We have a great team already, but there is definitely room to build on this and I'd be excited to connect with others in the Translation Group who are interested in doing similar kinds of work.
   b. Melissa Kenney and Apoorva Joshi (Institute on the Environment, University of Minnesota) – Harnessing the Power of AI and Decision Science to Make Ecological Forecasting Data More Accessible and Impactful
      i. Explore potential projects and proposals
      ii. Our multidisciplinary group brings together principles of design justice, decision science, and visual science communication to develop a prototype AI-powered decision support tool that empowers users to access and interpret complex ecological forecasting data. By leveraging large language models (LLMs) to translate plain language user queries into computer code, we will create and test a flexible system that makes ecological forecasting data more usable, accessible, and actionable; using this proof-of-concept to develop competitive grant proposals.
      iii. Note from Melissa: For collaborators, I wouldn't say it's an automatic inclusion instead we wanted to keep open an opportunity for possible additional collaborations. We are interested in people who have

relevant skills and want to work on work related to data product design or decision support systems, LLM integration, querying and integrating feedback or questions from users into data products, an d design justice. If there are people who are interested, I think we would start with a conversation and see if this particular project is the right collaboration opportunity.

c. Melina Kourantidou (University of Southern Denmark) – Leveraging Economics for Invasion Impact Forecasting through Evolutionary Dynamics
    i.   Explore potential projects and proposals
    ii. Our group will convene to explore and develop novel research questions and proposals, building on recently established concepts that incorporate evolutionary dynamics into invasion biology to forecast economic impacts. We aim to bring together interdisciplinary expertise in economics, ecology and evolution, to advance this innovative approach. Our collaboration will focus on refining methodologies and frameworks that bridge natural and social perspectives encompassing trait evolution and monetary costs, paving the way for impactful research across sectors and tangible funding applications.
    iii. Note from Melina: We are certainly open to involving new collaborators. I'll also inform my team, and we will coordinate to join some of the "Translation Working Group" calls you mentioned. One of my collaborators also indicated that if the EFI has someone in industry, that could be a useful perspective too.

d. Alana Rader (Lewis & Clark College) – Forecasting LA County Oak Forest Regeneration Potential in Community
    i.   Develop proposal for an already identified funding sources
    ii. We will forecast oak regeneration potential following wildfires in LA County, building from measured oak forest dynamics (growth, decline, regeneration) over a period encompassing the Woolsey Fire. Participatory modelling workshops will bring land managers, users, and owners together to highlight how diverse actions and needs for damaged trees following wildfire feedback with post-fire forest cover. Resulting is a post-fire oak regeneration forecast that incorporates previously un-documented safety, value, and esthetic considerations at work in regenerating urban forests.
    iii. Jody shared 1) the work that Jason is doing at Notre Dame to explore forest changes in the Midwest including fire and bison to promote oak savannas and work with Tribal members to incorporate cultural burning information into understand how oak savannas persist and 2) the CI/Methods working group project to create a spatial forecast challenge for forecasts of wildfire recovery.

    e. Luis Rodríguez-Cruz (University of Puerto Rico at Utuado/ USDA Caribbean Climate Hub) – Advancing Social-ecological Forecasting in Puerto Rico: Integrating Social Dimensions to Support Decision-Making around Climate Adaptation
- i. Explore potential projects and proposals
- ii. Our team aims to evaluate the extent to which social dimensions are considered in ecological forecasting in Puerto Rico. We will explore how these dimensions can enhance model accuracy and reliability, and ultimately explore the limitations. The main outcome of our group will be a bilingual, open access white paper outlining research priorities, best practices, and funding opportunities to address food security, climate resilience, biodiversity, and natural resource conservation in Puerto Rico through improved ecological forecasting.
- iii. Note from Luis - Regarding collaborators, it would be great if you could connect us to bilingual people that work in or do work related to Puerto Rico and ecological forecasting. The meeting/workshop we are planning will be held in Spanish. Will be convening groups next semester so is interested in joining a working group meeting sometime next semester.

    f. Is there a way for the Translation working group to help these groups make connections? & Other Notes
- i. Anna has projects in Puerto Rico, but they are not forecasting
- ii. Jody will confirm on the EFI members page if there is anyone in PR
- iii. Two NEON sites in PR - could be a hub for modeling
- iv. Look in Zotero if there are any co-authors in the project
- v. Do we have log of co-authors from previous EFI conferences?
  - Gathertown - look at participants
  - EFI2024 - look at abstracts
  - EFI 2020 - look at registrants
- vi. Jody to post an announcement about the award winner on the EFI homepage. There is a page with information about the award winners set up (see link above)

2. Who, what, when, where, why, and how for partner/user/interested parties engagement and examples from the EFI community Tutorial ideas
   a. Series of short YouTube videos (5-10 minutes)
   b. Project summary and overview
   c. Links to files with information for this project
      - i. Google Slides brainstorming resources for each W/H section
      - ii. Google folder with the slides and notes about the tutorial from previous calls
      - iii. Google doc with Script & Interview ideas

        iv.   Google doc with text to reach out to potential interviewees, informed consent for the recordings, interview questions

   d. Next steps for this call

        i.   Check in with Kira, Ayanna, Alexis about the interviews and video processing

- Alexis has interviewed scheduled for Thurs!
- Kira and Alexis sent out emails to a few more people
- Next steps - do the pull quotes and talk to Ayanna about the editing

        ii.   Goal - find common themes from the interviews, then add paragraph/sentence to the scripts to highlight this is what you will hear in the interview and you will see some real world examples

        iii.   Alison could pull themes from transcripts of the recordings

- Kira will send the transcript to Alison. They should all be in the folder

        iv.   Consider asking the people who received the RFP - think about the timing for this. Think we want to wait to let them get settled in, but could check to see as they are further along in their projects or wrapping them up if they have ideas to share with us about what worked or didn't work.

        v.   Would like to have meetings with the RFP groups

- Could potentially be a paper about the wide interpretation of social science in ecoforecasting and the different angles you can take to get there. The range of expertise of people on the project
- Social Science WG had messaging early on about how social science can be included in forecasting
  - Could continue along this vein to bring in translation and actionable science as well as
  - NSF Dynamics of social sciences (DISCES) - could have a case study example that couples to this grander goal
    - https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?ProgEleCode=169100&BooleanElement=Any&BooleanRef=Any&ActiveAwards=true#results
  - NSF had huge $300K grants and then recently started smaller, mini grants to do survey to help people do smaller projects to get things launched, but then it was shut down
  - The large and mini grants - DISCES and DISCES-EX
    - The program manager would be a good person to ping to figure out why it was cancelled

3. What is Abby interested in 2 things -

   a. Learning: structured decision making with managers

        i.   Melissa Kenney has had recommendations about this with Kira - textbook and some articles describing the process

        ii.   Jody can find the NEFI short course materials

            iii.   Add this material to a Google doc so the group can access it now and into the future

    b. Sharing experiences - how to make decision problems useful for the people making decisions and those who the decisions will impact

4. Reminder to compile vignettes - examples of impacts of forecasts that you might not get with common metrics - Examples of Impacts of Forecasts

    a. Jody is leaving this point in the notes as reference. There may be nothing to discuss related to this on the Oct 2024 call

    b. Reasons for compiling these vignettes and ideas of how to use what is compiled from the discussion on the Sept 10, 2024 call

       i.   While we may not use this document immediately, it gives us a start for pulling the information together for use later

       ii.   These vignettes will help make the case for ecoforecast

       iii.   They can highlight the impact of EFI and/or the impact of forecasts

       iv.   They can be used potentially to set the groundwork for a blog post, white paper on the impacts of forecasts

       v.   They can be used as examples for EFI funding activities/proposals or for reaching out to partners to show impacts of EFI/forecasts

       vi.   Could tie in to the YouTube interview by linking back to the vignettes - make sure to point back to the original source/authors of the work

       vii.   Long-term could think about creating a paper about making ecological forecasts better and more usable - want example of forecasts in the real world. Show how they affect people's decision making, people's behaviors

       viii.   **Could be included in a paper on application and impact**

       ix.   Going back to the blog post on the impacts of forecasts Guray, Kira, and Jaime work on. Forecasts can impact regulations https://ecoforecast.org/the-integration-of-ecological-forecasts-into-environmental-policy/

       x.   This type of paper could be a nice compliment to that blog post. or could do another blog

       xi.   Instead of a blog - could have a spotlight on the EFI webpage. Spotlight a new forecast or impact.

            ● Something like what has been done for other forecast spotlights

               ○ https://ecoforecast.org/tag/forecast-spotlight/

       xii.   This is worth continuing to explore

       xiii.   Comes down to who has time to do this

       xiv.   We could set up the structure/template - could use a Google form and then have people in the group reach out

       xv.   Soliciting, collecting, managing vignettes.

       xvi.   Find where to promote - define audience. Who will these be used for?

xvii. Unintended consequences: What were you trying to do? What happened?

xviii. Kira has added this idea to the Distributed Leadership Committee task list

xix. What questions do you put in the Google form.
- Suggestions:
  - 1. What's the forecast of?
  - 2. Who was the stakeholder/ decision in mind?
  - 3. Who was impacted by the forecast? What did that impact look like?
  - Was there anything about this that was unexpected?

xx. Making direct asks of individuals works well. Also people are not sure how to fit in to EFI or know how to participate, so sharing that information is is important