

Ecosphere

Priorities for synthesis research in ecology and environmental science

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Appendix S1

Appendix S1: Workshop participants & selection process

Outreach

The workshop was announced in April 2020 via NCEAS marketing channels including promotion in the NCEAS newsletter, the NCEAS website and via social media. The following social media tags were used to broaden the reach of the announcement. #AcademicTwitter, #AcademicMama, #WomenInAcademia, #BlackAcademics, #QueerSTEM, #LatinProfessor, #ECRchat, #SynthesisScience, #openscience, #biodiversity, #SASAP, #WomenInScience, #AISES, #SACNAS, #DDCSP @SNAPPpartnership, @USLTER, @NCAR-Science, @sesync, @INSTAAR, @DataONEorg, @foresttrendsorg, @MtnResearch, @GEOBON_org, @CIRESnews, @ESA_SEEDS, @ESA_Policy, @ESA_org, @NSFINCLUDESHub, @AIMES_IPO, @POGO_Ocean, @SciArtInitiativ, @ESIPfed, @NEON_sci, @CODATANews, @AGU_Eos, @DDCSP_Collab

Application

Interested participants were required to provide a resume or CV and fill out an application with basic demographic information and the following:

- Statement of interest
- What do you see as an exciting opportunity or need for ecological synthesis in the next decade?
- OPTIONAL: If you would like to provide a link to your online professional presence (e.g., website or blog, LinkedIn, etc.), please include it here.
- OPTIONAL: Is there anything else you would like us to know about your lived experience?

Participant Selection

We received 148 applications, and we had funding to support approximately 80 participants for an in-person workshop in Santa Barbara, CA in September 2020. The workshop was funded by the National Science Foundation which places restrictions on utilizing funds for international travel. For this reason, the original scope was limited to US participants.

Due to the uncertainty of travel during the COVID -19 pandemic, the workshop was rescheduled as a virtual event in February 2021. A rubric was created to evaluate the responses to the applications, but with the change in format we were able to increase participation and we no longer needed to restrict the event to 80 participants. The virtual format ultimately led to broader participation, but we were mindful of keeping participant numbers manageable to ensure all participants were able to meaningfully engage and meeting hosts were able to interact with all participants as needed. Thus, we kept the total number of participants under 130 and excluded applications that were incomplete or did not respond to questions in a sufficient manner. The change of date and venue was communicated to the participants and 127 people ultimately were able to join the workshop.

Participant Overview

127 total participants

Gender

Male	42%
Female	55%
Non-binary	0%
prefer not to say	3%

Race

African	0.70%
African American or Black	0.70%
Asian	0.70%
Asian (Indian)	0.70%
Asian American	6.29%
Caucasian or White	66.43%
Hispanic or LatinX	8.39%
Mixed race	4.90%
Native American or Alaskan Native	0.70%
Other	0.70%
Prefer not to say	8.39%
South Asian	1.40%

Sector

Academia	80.42%
For-profit/Business	1.40%
Government/Policy	7.69%
NGO	5.59%
Other	0.70%
Combination of sectors	4.90%

Early Career Researcher (ECR)

Yes	54%
No	40%
Prefer not to say	6%

Location

Eastern US	31%
Western US	46%
Canada	5%
UK	4%
Brazil	3%
Australia	2%
New Zealand	2%
Spain	2%
Germany	2%
Czech Republic	1%
Turkey	1%
France	1%
India	1%
Israel	1%
Kenya	1%
Mexico	1%
Norway	1%