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63rd IAVS Symposium

September 20-23, 2021

The virtual event, organized by IAVS



Planning for the 63rd Annual Symposium of the IAVS is now well underway. We believe that the virtual format of the symposium will provide an excellent opportunity for all of us to meet, discuss the latest developments in the field of vegetation science, and also socialize. Below we provide further details about a preliminary schedule, plenary speakers, special sessions, workshops and thematic sections. The virtual platform will offer multiple channels for discussions and personal interactions among Symposium attendees. All live events will also be recorded, and all recorded talks and posters will stay available to all attendees for the whole month following the Symposium.

We still welcome contributed talks (15 minutes, pre-recorded), posters with or without a 2-minute pre-recorded lightning talk, and (newly) Virtual Excursions (10-15 minute recordings of your study or excursion site). Please visit the registration website [here](#) to register for the Symposium, and submit your abstract before **20 June** using the abstract submission website [here](#). Applications for financial support (registration grants) must also be received by **20 June** (please provide a motivation letter and CV, and use the online form provided in the abstract submission website). Check the [registration website](#) for important dates, registration fees and further details.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF LIVE EVENTS

In addition to live events, we will also have a number of pre-recorded contributed oral talks, posters (with lightning talks) and virtual excursions, provided on demand during the whole Symposium and the following month. In addition to live online events listed below, there will also be a number of smaller online meetings organized by working groups and regional sections (exact times to be announced in the final version of the program).

MONDAY - 20 SEPTEMBER 2021

All times in CET - Central European Time zone

9:00-9:20 Welcome (Susan Wiser, IAVS President)

9:30-10:50 Plenary - Michelle Greve (University of Pretoria, South Africa)

11:00-13:00 Special Session - *Big Data and Big Classifications – using vegetation databases for large-scale, plot-based classifications and future challenges* (organised by IAVS Vegetation Classification Working Group)

14:00-16:00 Workshop - *CWM approach in functional trait ecology - R workshop* (organised by David Zelený)

TUESDAY - 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

14:00-15:50 Plenary - Jitka Klimešová (Institute of Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Třeboň, Czech Republic)

16:00-18:00 Special Session - *Community ecology belowground* (organised by Tomáš Herben and Jitka Klimešová)

19:00-21:00 Workshop - *Photographic Vegetation Databases – assessing types, research and teaching uses, and a potential inventory* (organised by IAVS Vegetation Classification Working Group)

WEDNESDAY - 22 SEPTEMBER 2021

14:00-15:50 Plenary - Benjamin Blonder (University of California, Berkeley, United States)

16:00-18:00 Special Session - *River vegetation -- the challenges of management and conservation and their values and ecosystem services* (organised by Francisca Aguiar & Rui Rivaes)

19:00-21:00 Life discussion for pre-recorded Special Session *The legacy of invasions: changes in plant trajectories during restoration and how to manage them* (organised by Florencia A. Yannelli and Alessandra Fidelis)

THURSDAY - 23 SEPTEMBER 2021

9:00-10:50 Plenary - Sankaran Mahesh (National Center of Biological Science, India)

11:00-13:00 Special Session - *Progress in plant ecology and vegetation science research in Africa* (organised by Reginald T. Guuroh and the developing African Regional Section)

14:00-16:00 General Assembly (by IAVS Governing Board; preview of 2022 Symposium in Madrid, announcement of Young Scientist awards, closing remarks)

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Pre-recorded talks with live Q&A

Benjamin Blonder (University of California, Berkeley, United States): *A hotter and drier future: consequences for Rocky Mountain aspen forests and alpine tundra*

Michelle Greve (University of Pretoria, South Africa): title to be announced

Jitka Klimešová (Institute of Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic): *Ecologist in the enchanted belowground world of plant communities*

Mahesh Sankaran (National Center of Biological Science, India): title to be announced

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Pre-recorded or live, with live Q&A

Big data and big classifications – using vegetation databases for large-scale, plot-based classifications and future challenges (organised by IAVS Vegetation Classification Working Group)

The development of vegetation-plot databases has opened up the possibilities to increase the geographic scope and ecological scope of vegetation classification and its uses. This special session aims to 1) discuss the various types of databases (and other storage) for vegetation plots, 2) discuss ways these big databases could be coordinated internationally, and 3) discuss the various ways big data can be used to classify and map vegetation, including improvements to both.

Community ecology belowground (organised by Tomáš Herben and Jitka Klimešová)

Many functions of plant communities take place belowground, such as obtaining water and nutrients, surviving harsh conditions or damage, occupying space, and responding to their neighbours. In a number of plant communities, belowground biomass largely exceeds their aboveground biomass. This special session will focus on key attributes of belowground plant ecology relevant for plant community functioning. We also aim to show that taking the perspective "from belowground" can considerably change our views of how plant communities are organized.

River vegetation - the challenges of management and conservation and their values and ecosystem services (organised by Francisca Aguiar & Rui Rivaes)

River vegetation communities continue to be threatened by human activities that fragment, disconnect and reduce their diversity, and their spatial and temporal dynamics. This special session aims to share research on efforts to reduce the impoverishment of aquatic and riparian vegetation including, for example, dam removal, implementation of environmental flows, enhancing water quality and ecosystem rehabilitation, as well as societal and political actions. We aim to identify knowledge gaps and stimulate collaborations amongst scientists to better inform river managers, practitioners, and policymakers for sustainable management of river vegetation and their ecosystem services.

Progress in plant ecology and vegetation science research in Africa (organised by Reginald T. Guuroh and the recently developing African Regional Section)

African vegetation scientists and their research outputs are currently grossly under-represented in international science -- both at conferences and in scientific publications. This session aims to highlight the research done by African vegetation scientists and collaborators working in the African continent.

The legacy of invasions: changes in plant trajectories during restoration and how to manage them (organised by Florencia A. Yannelli and Alessandra Fidelis)

Legacy effects of alien plant species can ultimately modify plant community trajectories through direct change of plant community composition or indirectly by alterations to soils. The result can be ineffective restoration with unpredictable outcomes. We aim to identify and discuss a) how legacy effects influence native plant community composition, b) what mechanisms lead to unforeseen plant community responses and c) what management practices could take us closer to desired community trajectories leading to successful restoration. This session will be pre-recorded but will have a live Q&A.

WORKSHOPS

Live, all registrants welcome

CWM approach in functional trait ecology - R workshop (organised by David Zelený)

Relating community-level functional traits to the environment is one of the fundamental tasks in functional ecology. One way to do so is to calculate community weighted means (CWM) of species traits, weighted by species abundances, and relate them to environmental variables. However, traditional parametric tests inflate Type I errors. In this workshop, participants will learn how to use the recently developed R package *weimea*, which contains tools suitable for running the permutation tests that overcome this problem within the CWM approach.

Photographic vegetation databases – assessing types, research and teaching uses, and a potential inventory (organised by IAVS Vegetation Classification Working Group)

The development of digital imagery, drones, and increased storage has opened up new opportunities to use photography for vegetation science research and teaching. At this workshop we will 1) discuss the various types of vegetation photos and their potential uses, 2) discuss the various types of databases (and other storage) for vegetation photos, discuss tools to use such databases (e.g., VEGAPP, iNaturalist) and 4) develop an international group of scholars to take on the challenge of organizing plot photos (perhaps similar to plot data). This workshop to be a group activity with potentially lightning talks on classifications currently in use (examples by participants) but mainly roundtable and break-out (based on three workshop goals) discussions of participants.

THEMATIC SECTIONS

Pre-recorded talks and posters, offered on demand during the Symposium, with Q&A using chat

- Assembly rules
- Biomes
- Climate change
- Conservation and restoration
- Disturbance ecology
- Ecosystem function
- Functional traits
- Historical ecology
- Invasive species
- Macroecology of vegetation
- New technologies for vegetation science
- Remote sensing of vegetation
- Species diversity
- Theory and methods in vegetation science
- Vegetation classification
- Vegetation informatics, databases and tools
- Vegetation dynamics and succession
- Vegetation inventory and mapping
- Vegetation modelling

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- **Susan Wiser** (IAVS President)
- **Martin Diekmann** (past IAVS President, a current member of the IAVS Awards Committee)
- **Javier Loidi** (Chair of the IAVS Meetings Committee)

- **David Zelený** (IAVS Secretary)

For the list of Scientific Committee members and further information, please visit the registration website [here](#), and also check our [First](#) and [Second](#) Circulars.



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