SORTEE

Society for Open, Reliable, and Transparent
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Newsletter, June 2023

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SORTEE wins AIMOS Commendation Award

AIMOS (Association of Interdisciplinary Meta-research and Open Science) has selected SORTEE for its first Commendation Award for our "pioneering work bringing together researchers seeking to improve the reliability and transparency of research through cultural and institutional changes in ecology, evolutionary biology, and related fields."

We are honored to have been recognized by AIMOS for this work. And most important, we are grateful to the many members and volunteers who make SORTEE's (award winning!) work possible. Thank you!

Upcoming conference meet-ups

We have several upcoming in-person meet-ups, including in August at the Ecological Society of America conference in Oregon, USA and at the Behaviour conference in Bielefeld, Germany. Find the latest info on meet-ups here.

Are you attending a conference this year? Consider presenting about SORTEE or organizing a SORTEE meet up! You can propose a meet-up or a presentation on this form. We hope to see you soon!

Open Zotero library of resources for Open, Reliable, and Transparent science

SORTEE is now curating resources on Open, Reliable, and Tansparent science through a public Zotero library. We hope that this library will grow over time and help those looking for guidance on open science practices, or evidence for the benefits of these practices. We need your help in finding these resources! If you have one in mind, please submit it to this form and we will add it.

2023 SORTEE Conference - Registration open!

Conference registration is now open!

https://events.humanitix.com/sortee-conference-2023-e8dqpa5c

Please spread the word!

Registration is free for SORTEE members.

The third annual SORTEE Conference will be held virtually in October 2023 (continuously from **17 October 0700 UTC to 18 October 0830 UTC**, to cover all timezones).

The conference is a forum to discuss and develop ideas for improving research in fields related to ecology and evolutionary biology.

Conference content submission is now closed and we are working on delivering a fantastic program filled with exciting interactive events:

> **Unconferences** discussions such as "Do we need an alternative to pre-registration in ecology and evolution?", or on "Global South challenges and accomplishments in FAIR science".
>
> **Hackathons** including "Do learned societies in ecology and evolution provide equitable access to their memberships?", or "Open code and data practices during peer review".
>
> **Workshops** for example on "Data validation for small and medium sized datasets in ecology and evolution", or on "Making your first R package"!

We are working on the program, which will be published soon on the SORTEE webpage, so keep an eye out for updates.

Do you have any questions or suggestions regarding the conference? Write to us! (**conf.sortee@gmail.com**)

See you in October!
-The SORTEE Conference Committee

Workshop and Webinar Series

The Workshop and Webinar series has hosted a variety of speakers, from a webinar on the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science to a workshop on integrating Javascript in R. We have also created an OSF repository, where you can find speaker resources if you missed a workshop/webinar or would like a refresher. We have two exciting workshops coming up on preparing data for open access repositories (June 21st) and creating Dashboards with R (September 28th). Please consider joining us and, if you have a workshop in mind, letting us know on this form!

SORTEE Awards - nominations open

SORTEE has re-designed our Awards. **Please nominate** yourself or others by the **first of September** by accessing the forms here. The new awards categories are:

1. Student Award, to recognize and reward student researchers who have endeavoured to implement best (Open, Reliable, and Transparent = ORT) practices within their research workflow, thereby increasing the transparency and reproducibility of their research activities in broadly defined fields of ecology and evolutionary biology.

2. Researcher Award, to recognize and reward researchers who have made consistent and long term contributions to open science in various forms including publications, preregistration, data or software sharing, and outreach (e.g. the presentation of seminars and workshops), benefitting broadly defined ecology and evolutionary biology.

We want your suggestions for social media posts!

SORTEE wants a bigger social media presence, and we think you can help. If you have information you'd like to share via SORTEE's social media accounts (Mastodon, Twitter, LinkedIn), please let us know with **this form**.

We welcome any information relevant to Open, Reliable, or Transparent Ecology, Evolutionary biology, or related disciplines.

We would love to hear your suggestions for:

(a) papers or other published materials (including preprints)

(b) software

(c) educational materials / tutorials

(d) news or announcements (including about events sponsored by other organizations)

Fundraising update

Much of SORTEE's work to facilitate open, reliable, and transparent science costs money. To help pay for these activities, and to minimize the financial burden on our members, we seek support from institutions with agendas consistent with our own. So far in 2023, SORTEE has received (and is extremely grateful for) financial support for our mission from the American Society of Naturalists (www.amnat.org), Canadian Science Publishing (cdnsciencepub.com), Peer Community In (peercommunityin.org), and Figshare (https://figshare.com/).

For journal editors: SORTEE contact and Registered Reports workshop

SORTEE is excited to announce that we are now providing services to journals and journal editors interested in adopting policies to promote Open, Reliable, and Transparent (ORT) research.

Prof Shinichi Nakagawa is serving as our official contact for journal editors interested in learning more about ORT editorial policies. Editors can contact Shinichi at advocacy.sortee@gmail.com with any questions regarding ORT practices and policies that editors might be considering introducing to their journals. Publishers and journals play a key role in the transition to a more Open, Reliable and Transparent research landscape. We thus invite you to take this opportunity and ask any questions or suggest any ideas you might have.

To help journals adopt Registered Reports, SORTEE is organizing a 90-min workshop geared towards editors in early October 2023 before SORTEE's annual conference. This workshop will help participants understand the benefits of Registered Reports, how they work, and how journals can implement them in ecology and evolutionary biology. Already, Registered Reports are being increasingly adopted by ecology and evolutionary biology journals (e.g. [PCI Ecology](#), [Ecology and Evolution, Ecological Solutions and Evidence,](#) [Nature Ecology and Evolution](#)) and beyond (see a list of >300 participating journals [here](#)), and will be important in improving ORT practices across our discipline into the future. For more information on Registered Reports and their importance for ORT, you can check out [this webpage](#).

EcoEvoRxiv update

EcoEvoRxiv (https://ecoevorxiv.org), SORTEE's preprint service, continues to grow. Here are some recent updates that we're excited to share:

- The IUCN (https://www.iucn.org/) is interested in using EcoEvoRxiv for their IUCN Global Ecosystem Assessments. We're working with the team there to help accommodate their requirements.
- EcoEvoRxiv is in active conversations with the CDL (California Digital Library, the organization that hosts our preprint server) to develop implementation of preprint peer review for organizations such as PCI and Sciety.
- Janeway (https://janeway.systems/), the open source publishing system used by CDL to publish EcoEvoRxiv preprints, is scheduled to be updated in June, and this should implement some requested features we have been waiting for.

2023 SORTEE leadership team

Esteban Fernandez-Juricic (President)

Ed Ivimey-Cook (Secretary)

Alexa Fredston (Treasurer)

Rose O'Dea (President-Elect for 2024)

Dominique Roche (Past-President, Fundraising Committee Chair)

Kaija Gahm (Board member)

Tim Parker (Board member, Media Committee Chair)

Patrice Pottier (Board member)

Alfredo Sánchez-Tójar (Board member)

Bawan Amin (DEI Committee Chair)

Antica Culina (Advocacy Committee Chair)

Natasha Gownaris (Education and Outreach Chair)

Daniel Noble (EcoEvoRxiv Committee Chair)

Matthieu Paquet (Conference Committee Chair)