Newsletter, September 2023

SORTEE

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

https://www.sortee.org/
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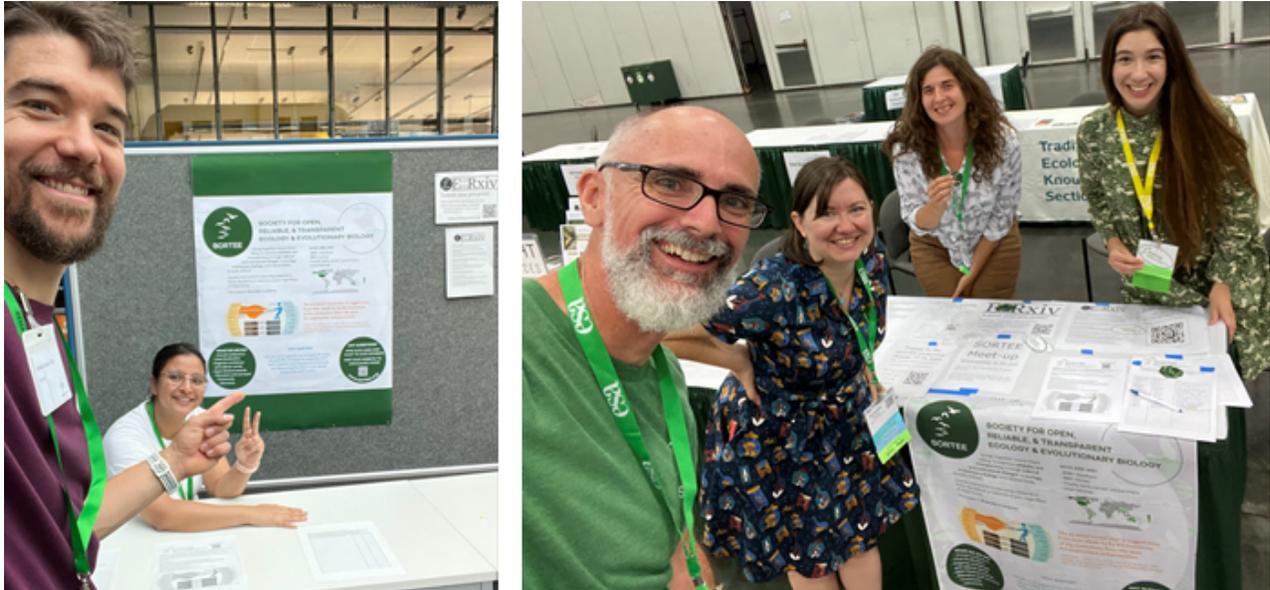LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/sortee/

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SORTEE at in-person conferences

SORTEE members have been out and about at various conferences lately, and we've hosted outreach tables and social events.

Here are our tables at Behaviour 2023 in Bielefeld, Germany (left), and at the Ecological Society of America in Portland, OR, USA, both in August:

We also recently hosted social events at the joint meeting of the American Ornithological Society and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists in Ontario, Canada, and at the Society of Molecular Biology and Evolution in Italy.

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!

SORTEE leadership nominations - coming soon

Look for an email later this month inviting SORTEE members to nominate themselves for leadership positions. There will be three open seats on the Board of Directors, as well as multiple open positions on SORTEE committees.

2023 SORTEE Conference - almost here!

- **REMINDER Conference registration is open!**

  https://www.sortee.org/upcoming/

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).

We will have lively exchanges of ideas, with three participatory event types:

-Unconferences: Facilitated discussions of ideas for how to make ecology, evolutionary biology, and related disciplines more open, reliable, and transparent.

-Hackathons: Group projects with well-defined goals (papers, techniques, software, protocols, organizations, etc.)

-Workshops: Tools to implement open, reliable, and transparent practices

Check out the program details on our shiny app!

Please spread the word! You can access the program details on our shiny app. **Registration is free for SORTEE members**, and there are many alternatives for pay and waiver options to become a SORTEE member.

- **T-shirt give-away!**

If you register for the conference **before the 25th of September** you will be eligible to win one SORTEE t-shirt (5 to win in total)!

And there is more! If you recommend a friend/colleague to register for the conference before the 25th of September, they can then fill in this form and you will **both have one more chance to win a t-shirt!**

- **Movie night!**

We will be showing an exclusive screening of the movie "The Effort to Remember" (summary below).

Conference attendees will be provided a link and password a few days ahead of the conference to access the video and watch it whenever they want.
(We recommend the use of headphones so you can better hear all the details of the sound design 😉.)

Would you rather never be able to remember something that you've lost, or never be able to register what you currently have? Humans have the habit of collecting data, and they have been fundamental to understanding nature. The archiving and sharing of these data, however, have been inconsistent throughout history and much of it is at risk of being lost - forever. But what does it take to rescue this data and publicly share them?

- **Call for volunteers!**

To make the conference a success, we will need your help during the event. The conference will run for a little more than 24 hours straight, and we need at least two volunteers on duty at all times to monitor the conference Slack channel in case questions arise and to serve as Zoom account administrators should Zoom help be needed in one of the sessions.

We don't have enough people available on the conference committee to fill these roles, and **so we are counting on you to volunteer.** The more volunteers we get, the fewer hours any one person needs to offer, so please be generous and volunteer! We are particularly in need of volunteers available at American and Pacific time zones.

If you are willing to volunteer, even for 1 hour, please email us at **conf.sortee@gmail.com** with your availability between 7 a.m. UTC on 17 October and 8:30 a.m. UTC on 18 October. Please specify your hours in UTC. Here is a link if you need help with the time conversion (https://www.worldtimebuddy.com/, set one time zone as your local zone and another as UTC).

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

We hope to see you in October!
The SORTEE Conference Committee

Workshop and Webinar Series

Our Workshop and Webinar Series took a break June-August due to research-related travel, but we are starting back up this month (September 28 @ 15:00 UTC) with an exciting, hands-on workshop on creating dashboards with R. If interested in this two-hour workshop, make sure to register! We won't have a separate workshop in October, but please plan to join our annual conference—24 hours of workshops, unconferences, and hackathons—which is free for SORTEE members. In November (Nov 28 @ 16:00 UTC), Dr. Michael Oellermann will join us to discuss how to prepare and publish open data. Registration is limited for the November workshop to facilitate interactivity, so please register soon if you are interested. We are always looking for new ideas for our series. You can propose a workshop or webinar if you have a speaker and topic in mind, or can request a workshop on a particular topic and we can try to find a good fit. Missed a workshop or webinar and want to learn more about it? You can check out relevant resources for previous events on our OSF repository.

SORTEE partners with Canadian Science Publishing

SORTEE has formed a relationship with Canadian Science Publishing (CSP), the leading not-for-profit science publisher in Canada. CSP has committed to reaching complete open access publishing, and SORTEE is working to facilitate this process, in part by through webinars and workshops.

SORTEE Awards - nominations deadline extended!

SORTEE has re-designed our Awards. **Please nominate** yourself or others by the **first of October** 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.

Resources for SORTEE members

The Education and Outreach Committee is in the process of figuring out how to best share open science resources with our members. We currently maintain a reading list and public repository on Zotero, to which you can submit resources. We would love to hear your thoughts on what types of resources would benefit you – and in what format. Please share any and all thoughts in this very brief survey.

Share your SORTEE story!

If you have not already appeared in the 'SORTEE Voices' feature on our website, please fill out the survey and show public support for SORTEE.

Add links to sortee.org on your website

If you have a website, please consider adding a link to sortee.org. The more websites that link to sortee.org, the higher our search engine rankings will be. This will help people searching on Google or other search engines find us more readily. Thanks!

Update from the DEI committee

One of the main tasks that the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee has been working on these past few months is the development of an improved demographic survey, which we hope to release soon. With this survey, we hope to gain a deeper understanding of our members' backgrounds and perceptions related to DEI. We encourage you to keep an eye out and to take a moment to share your insights when it is released, as your feedback is crucial in enhancing our society's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Animal Behaviour Live

ABL has announced their fourth flagship annual online conference. The event will take place on the 16-17th of November 2023 and will be broadcast online on their YouTube channel for registered participants (save the date in your calendar). Animal Behaviour Live creates an open and accessible online conference for animal behaviour researchers.

'Risk of Bias' Assessment Tool for evidence synthesis in Ecology & Evolution

A team of researchers in ecology and evolution have constructed a survey to help them develop a simple "Risk of Bias" (RoB) assessment tool for ecology and evolution. In many other disciplines, such tools are routinely used for evidence synthesis, including meta-analysis, to qualitatively assess whether biases within reviewed primary studies risk distorting conclusions of the evidence synthesis.

This survey is open to researchers in the fields of ecology and evolution that have some experience in conducting a systematic review or meta-analysis. If you have this experience, these researchers would be grateful if you could spare 5 minutes to fill in an anonymous survey, which can be found here. After filling out the survey, you can opt to be included in the prize draw (PDF version of the Handbook of Meta analysis in Ecology and Evolution, Princeton University Press).

The survey will remain open until the 15th of October 2023. By responding electronically, you will be consenting to have your anonymous responses included in the research project on Risk of Bias tools in EE evidence synthesis.

If you have any further questions about this research or want to have your data removed from the survey, please contact the survey administrator (Antica Culina) at aculina@irb.hr.

Submit to the SORTEE Newsletter

We welcome submissions to our newsletter. If you know of anything that SORTEE should or could announce (events, publications, announcements, ideas) in our newsletter, please let us know by sending an email to sortee.media@gmail.com (We do not advertise commercial services or products)

2023 SORTEE leadership team

Rose O'Dea (President)

Ed Ivimey-Cook (Secretary)

Alexa Fredston (Treasurer)

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)

Rob Lanfear (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)