



ecology

ECOLOGY AT THE INTERFACE

SCIENCE – BASED SOLUTIONS FOR HUMAN WELL-BEING

21/25 SEPTEMBER 2015 | ROME 

The 13th European Ecological Federation (EEF) and 25th Italian Society of Ecology (SItE) joint conference | Rome 21 - 25 September 2015

EEF and SItE are delighted to invite you to take part in their joint conference on the theme of “Ecology at the interface”, to be held in Rome from 21st to 25th September 2015 at the Congress Centre of Rome.

All important dates, including deadlines for abstract submission, workshop proposals, early/late registration and other key information are available at: www.ecologyatinterface.eu.

2nd Circular - Early registration and call for abstracts

Scientific Context

“Ecology at the Interface: Science –Based Solutions for Human Well-being” is the main topic of the EEF and SITE joint conference. It expresses our vision for Ecology, a science that shall be the bridge joining different fields of investigation, strengthening its position as a key player in tackling current and future challenges. Life is a process occurring and maintained at multiple interfaces via a complex network of interactions at different hierarchical levels of organisation and scale, most of which lie within the realm of Ecology.

Interacting organisms and populations, as well as the land-water-atmosphere, sediment-water-atmosphere and, deepwater-surface water ecotones nested within the Biosphere, are just a few examples of interfaces where Ecology is specifically invoked to describe and decode system organisation and

processes, from populations to the Biosphere. Due to the pervasive effects of human activities at the global level, including climate, Ecology is also interested in interfaces between different but potentially interacting fields of knowledge (e.g., sociology, economy, law, technology) concerning daily human life. In this expanded field of interest, Ecology serves to boost exchanges at the interfaces of fields of knowledge, defining the contexts and thresholds of both ‘development’ and ‘sustainability’. The Conference aims to present the most advanced achievements of ecological research, discussing with scientists from interrelated fields their impacts on the problems faced by our societies, and transferring the main ideas stemming from these discussions to the different stakeholders working and interested in services and societal benefits based on ecologically relevant interfaces.

The European Ecological Federation and the Italian Society of Ecology are interested in promoting the combined participation of Scientific Societies and Institutions from interacting fields of knowledge and Institutional stakeholders in the organisation of the Conference Programme. The scientific agenda of ROME2015 will include plenary sessions where outstanding speakers give comprehensive overviews of the latest progress and challenges in key areas of interest; symposia; workshops; round tables and contributed sessions. Oral communications will combine with posters to stimulate the exchange of information and ideas on ecology in its broadest sense.

Plenary Sessions

Plenary Sessions will be characterised by a holistic, trans-disciplinary approach, fusing cultures and including keynote lectures and round tables.

So far, we are delighted to confirm the following plenary speakers:

1. **Prof. Jef Huisman**, Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2. **Prof. David Inouye**, Department of Biology, University of Maryland, United States of America
3. **Prof. Ingolf Kuehn**, Department of Community Ecology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research GmbH – UFZ, Germany
4. **Dr. Antonello Provenzale**, Institute of Atmospheric Sciences & Climate, National Research Council, Italy
5. **Prof. Riccardo Valentini**, Department of Sciences of Forest Ecosystems and their Resources, Tuscia University, Italy. *Haeckel Prize Winner*.

In the conference 3 to 4 plenary round tables are planned addressing key arguments of major interest for science, society and policy.

Symposia

Symposia will be the cornerstone of the scientific programme and will have a high profile during the meeting. The conference will include about thirty distinguished symposia, each running for 3.5 hours, addressing the meeting theme “Ecology at the interface” and proposed by speakers of international repute, chosen both for their standing in research and for known high standards in presentation.

Contributed Sessions

The Contributed Sessions will constitute the backbone of the conference and address all topics of interest to ecology in its broadest sense. In accordance with the Conference theme of ‘Ecology at the Interface’, contributions based on holistic approaches from all fields addressing ecological issues and contributions exploring interdisciplinary connections with social and natural sciences are particularly welcome.

Contributed abstracts are required to refer to one of the following research areas:

1. Agricultural Ecology
2. Behavioural Ecology
3. Biodiversity & Ecosystems
4. Biogeochemistry in Terrestrial & Aquatic Ecosystem
5. Biogeography and Landscape Ecology
6. Body Sizes Allometries and Patterns
7. Computational Ecology and Methods
8. Conservation Ecology
9. Ecological Economics
10. Ecological Energetics
11. Ecological Modelling
12. Ecological Niches and Interactions
13. Ecological Resilience and Sustainability
14. Ecology and Society
15. Ecosystem services & societal benefits
16. Ecotoxicology
17. Education for Sustainability
18. Environmental Genomics
19. Evolutionary Ecology
20. Food Webs, Networks and Complexity
21. Forest Ecology & Dynamics
22. Global Change Ecology
23. Hidden and dark biodiversity - from molecules to macroecology
24. Law, Energy and Environment
25. Macroecology & Scaling
26. Marine and Freshwater Ecology
27. Molecular Ecology
28. Parasites, Pathogens and Wildlife Disease
29. Perturbation Ecology & Ecological Indicators
30. Physiological Ecology
31. Population and Community Ecology
32. Tropical ecology
33. Urban resilience & sustainability
34. Wetland & transitional water ecology
34. Other related topics.

Workshops

The workshops are short events (basically limited to 1 or 2-hour sessions) that will focus on Training; Communication and Outreach; and Policy. Proposers and attendees are expected to actively interact in methodological/technical demonstrations, training activities and dissemination of tools produced in the EU or other international projects. Their purpose is to encourage active participation by delegates. Proposals should include the title of your workshop, a 100-150 word abstract, the names of promoters and the list of contributors (and sub-contributors if any).

Round Tables

The Round Tables will be sessions where the holistic, cultural melting-pot approach of "Ecology at the Interface" will be expressed in the strongest and most active way. There is no set format for proposing and submitting applications to the Round Table organisation, and proposals can be sent with any format for concerted evaluation and possibly inclusion in the programme.

Prizes & Awards

'*Ecology at the Interface*' will be opened by the plenary address of the "Ernst Haeckel Prize", the EEF Award, which honours a senior ecologist for outstanding contributions to European ecological science. International Network of Next-Generation Ecologists (INNGE) participants will have the opportunity to apply for various Awards & Fellowships that so far include:

1. "**Students European Ecology Prize**": honouring the best oral contributions presented by a student participant. Awards will be given to the best MSc or PhD student oral contribution and the best post-doc oral contribution, and are sponsored by EEF and SItE;
2. "**Premio Marchetti Award**": honouring the best poster contribution presented by an INNGE participant. The Award is sponsored by SItE;
3. "**Participation fellowships**": to support the expenses for accommodation in Rome of 10 Early career/INNGE participants. The fellowships are sponsored by SItE.
4. "**Training & Travel Grants**": to support the training and development of students and post graduate research assistants or equivalent, a limited number

of travel grants will be allocated by the **British Ecological Society** and **Asociación Española de Ecología Terrestre** (5 grants).

The information on Awards & Participation Fellowships will be continuously updated on the Conference website. Moreover, the Italian Society of Ecology will open for its INNGE and early career members:

1. "**Brusarosco Award**": honouring the best project presented by a young Italian researcher. The winner will take part in a 3-6-month research project abroad. The Award is jointly sponsored by the Brusarosco family and SItE;
2. "**Young Researcher Award**": honouring a young Italian researcher for the best article on Ecology published in an international journal.

General Information

Detailed and up-to-date information is available at: **www.ecologyatinterface.eu**.

Venue | The Conference will be held in Rome E.U.R. at the **Palazzo dei Congressi**, the City's main Conference Centre. The **Palazzo dei Congressi** was built for the Universal Exposition in Rome, from which the name of the area (E.U.R) derives. It represents one of the most celebrated examples of rationalist architecture in the world. It has a Conference Hall with approx. 900 seats, many other smaller halls of various sizes and large and versatile spaces, which allow for the rearrangement and tailoring of areas to meet the needs of users. An Exhibition space will be available for Scientific Sponsors and 'Ecology at the Interface' stakeholders, with discussion areas for Demonstrations, Thematic Round Tables and other activities directly organised by the exhibitors. Conditions for renting exhibition space are available on the Conference website: **www.ecologyatinterface.eu**.

Accommodation | The Elios Tours Travel Agency (www.elios tours.it) will organise participants' accommodation in Rome. A dedicated page on the "Ecology at the Interface" website will show the best solutions for various types of accommodation (4 and 3-Star Hotels, B&Bs and apartments) from January 15th. Since the Conference venue is close to Metro Line B, solutions will be offered in the EUR district, within walking distance of the venue, and downtown close to the historical and archaeological area.

Important Dates

Submission of contributions

- Deadline for abstract submission: 31st March
- Deadline for workshop proposals: 30th June

Registration

- Deadline for early registration: 31st March
- Deadline for late registration: 31st July
- On-site registration: 21st-25th September.

Conference Fees

The online registration procedure will open in December 2014 and close on July 31st 2015. Afterwards registration will be available on site only.

Status	Early Registration (deadline: 31st March 2015)	Late Registration (deadline: 31st July 2015)	On Site Registration
EEF Members	400€	500€	650€
*EEF Early Career/ "INNGE" Members	200€	300€	350€
Non EEF Members	450€	600€	750€
Non EEF Early Career/ "INNGE" Members	250€	350€	400€

All participants will be required to attach a documentation certifying their position to the registration form.

*Master, PhD students and post-doc researchers will enter the Early Career/INNGE (International Network of Next Generation Ecologists) category.

Become a member of your National Ecological Society!

National Ecological Societies are an important platform for ecologists to showcase their work to the public. Moreover, membership of a National Ecological Society can have numerous other benefits, such as access to working groups, academic journals and bulletins, symposia volumes, mailing lists, newsletters, information on job opportunities, discounts from a variety of publishers, workshops, meetings for scientists and other activities. Membership offers an excellent means of meeting your colleagues and exchanging information. Students especially should consider it, as this could provide a great opportunity to advance their career. Conference fees will be considerably lower for members than non-members, another excellent reason to join your national ecological society.

Please find information on national societies here: <http://www.europeanecology.org>

For any information/request please contact:
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WWW.ECOLOGYATINTERFACE.EU