



Response Diversity Network

Minutes from Committee Meeting 2

12 January 2023, 09:00 UTC

Steering Committee (SC) In Attendance: Ceres Barros (CB), Mike Fowler (MF), Owen Petchey (OP), Sam Ross (SR), Takehiro Sasaki (TS), Hannah White (HW).

Apologies: Laura Dee (LD).

Membership update [SR]

Membership numbers still good. Focusing more on agenda-setting than growth at this point. Six new members joined following BES 2022.

Events [SR]

OIST Theoretical Scholars Visiting Program proposal for March 2024 workshop was shortlisted for funding. OIST has not yet allocated funding, so will likely find out whether workshop will go ahead at start of new fiscal year (April 2023).

SR advertised RDN as part of BES 2022 talk, and OP advertised as part of Irish Ecological Association 2023 Keynote. SR to give talk specifically on Response Diversity Network at ESJ 2023 meeting in March. Slides could be used by other RDN or SC members to advertise [OP].

07/12/22 meeting actions [SC]

MF sent email about “metric of metrics” wrt invasion biology; some interesting ideas there, should pick up again later.

LD started Google Doc with draft survey questions, available [here](#).

LD to seek IRB approval for survey. SC will need to check who needs ethical approval (only the person who sends the survey? Whole SC? On institution-by-institution basis?). Might be best to make one institution responsible for survey. Can check how this is usually handled with various sources: CB to ask BES contacts/journals, OP to ask Forest Isbell, SR to ask OIST, HW to ask Anglia Ruskin ethics officer.

OP gave access to scoping meeting notes, available [here](#). Three draft aims from scoping meeting provided in draft of positioning paper under heading “what are the network aims”, available [here](#). Scoping meeting notes show members were focused on concept of response diversity and what research should/will come from RDN. So main priorities of RDN should be research agenda (developing concept, methods, *etc.*) and use survey results to guide agenda setting [OP]. Can present research agenda in positioning paper, with focus on prioritisation (RDN scope will be broader but with initial priorities).

Can have a look at other network’s aims for inspiration [OP].

Survey [Discussion]

Survey participants: RDN membership, plus corresponding authors on response diversity x ecology papers. SR, OP, TS have list of papers from systematic review. SR to update with 2022 papers, and bioRxiv, ecoevoRxiv preprints and circulate.

Survey aims: 1) to understand what people currently understand response diversity to be; 2) to understand why people are interested in response diversity; 3) to reveal how people are measuring response diversity; 4) to reveal the challenges and priorities (in research and application); 5) to inform about what RDN should do.

Survey questions: SC reorganised questions into sections: first section = broad concepts; second section = specific studies (authors to provide DOI of published studies, or add study information in drop-down questions if unpublished); third section = challenges.

Questions should be carefully and consistently phrased, and checked by (external) expert to abide by all ethics and study design standards, *e.g.* to avoid leading questions [HW].

Useful to get both free-text answers about concepts and also categorical “do you see response diversity more as A, B, or C?”. If doing both, questions should be far apart or free-text locked to prevent people updating their free-text answers after seeing options [MF].

Questions on spatial/temporal scale could be quite difficult to analyse. Could use sliding bar to get quantitative estimates of relevant scale, following Isbell *et al.* (2022) available [here](#) [SR]. Isbell *et al.* survey also included sliding bar for certainty (how certain is survey participant in answer they’re giving?). Can also use sliding bars for questions on challenges [OP]. SR to circulate Isbell *et al.* (2022) paper on biodiversity experts survey.

Next steps:

- SC to comment on current questions, structure etc. in survey document [here](#) by Mon 23 January.
- Someone volunteer to consolidate survey questions into single comment-free document (SR can do, but volunteers welcome).
- SC to seek external input on consolidated document from expert in survey design and ethics (who?).
- SC to discuss how to analyse survey results in more detail at next meeting.

Positioning paper [Discussion]

This agenda item was skipped in favour of making actionable progress on Survey design.

Future meetings [SR]

Three continental committee is difficult to manage in terms of time zones. Best option seems to be to split meetings into smaller groups: first Europe-Japan (09:00 UK, 10:00 Zurich, 17-18:00 Japan), second Japan-Americas (09:00 Japan, 16:00 Vancouver, 17:00 Boulder). SR to send multiple meeting options and SC to attend either meeting as best suits.

Communication with network [OP]

Important to feed-back SC actions to RDN when important decisions made. How to do this? Currently communication only by email. Would be good to have completely open agendas and minutes [OP]. Private RDN repository on GitHub (OP manages) has email list. Will need a way to make things open. OP to consider options.

Actions

Who	Action	Timeline
SR	Send RDN slides (ESJ talk) to SC (and wider network?) for advertising network in talks etc.	March
SC	Investigate IRB/ethical approval rules on institution-by-institution basis.	BNM
SC	Look at other Network's aims to help guide RDN aims.	For positioning paper
SR	Circulate list of corresponding authors from updated systematic review.	BNM
SR	Circulate Isbell et al. (2022) biodiversity expert survey paper.	ASAP
SC	Make final comments on draft survey questions, structure etc.	23 Jan
SC	Volunteer (SR?) to consolidate survey.	After 23 Jan
SC	Seek external input from survey design / ethics expert (SC to decide who to ask).	After 23 Jan
SC	Discuss survey analysis methods at next meeting.	Next Meeting
OP	Consider how to make SC minutes etc. open to public.	BNM
SR	Set next committee meeting for Feb 2023.	ASAP

BNM = Before Next Meeting.