

Erik Kusch

SENIOR ENGINEER · RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGER · MACROECOLOGIST

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Research Profile

I am a macroecologist and data scientist specialised in streamlining work-flows as well as integrating and analysing big data. I use and develop quantitative tools to study ecosystem resilience and landscape-scale biodiversity to understand ecosystems trajectories through time and space. My current work includes coordination efforts of European biodiversity data research infrastructures inference, software development for climate data retrieval and aggregation as well as analysis and simulation of ecological networks.

Education

PhD in Biology; Specialisation on Ecoinformatics and Biodiversity

01/2020 - 04/2023

AARHUS UNIVERSITY (AU) & OXFORD UNIVERSITY (OX)

Dissertation: A Macroecological Perspective to Ecological Networks - Exploring the Impacts of Climate-Driven Biodiversity Change & Contrasting and Benchmarking Network Inference Approaches

M.Sc. in Biology; Specialisation on Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution

08/2017 - 08/2019

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN (UiB) & NANSEN ENVIRONMENTAL AND REMOTE SENSING CENTER (NANSEN)

Thesis: Inferring Vegetation Memory From Remote Sensing Data And Identifying Causal Links To Plant Function

B.Sc. in Biology

10/2013 - 07/2017

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY DRESDEN (TUD) & UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN (UiB)

Thesis: Remote Sensing And Predicting Shifts In Biome Distribution And Resilience Using NDVI Data

Specialised Training

Open, Reproducible, and Transparent Science in Ecology

Finse, Norway

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

14/11/2022 - 18/11/2022

7th Edition Species Distribution Modelling Course

Évora, Portugal

UNIVERSITY OF ÉVORA, SCIENCE RETREATS

26/04/2021 - 02/05/2021

An Introduction to Bayesian Statistics

Glasgow, Scotland

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

06/04/2021 - 16/04/2021

Hierarchical Modelling of Species Communities with the R-package Hmsc

Helsinki, Finland

UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

02/11/2020 - 06/11/2020

Modelling Challenges for Mountain Ecosystems

Hamburg, Germany

UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG

23/02/2020 - 28/02/2020

Experience

Senior Engineer / Research Infrastructure Manager

Oslo Norway

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

03/2023 - PRESENT

Research Fellow

Bergen, Norway

ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE RESEARCH GROUP, UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

09/2019 - 12/2019

National Park Ranger & Environmental Education Guide

Saxony, Germany

NATIONAL PARK SAXON-BOHEMIAN SWISS

04/2016 - 06/2016

Research and Teaching Assistant

BEHAVIOURAL ECOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP, UNIVERSITY OF LEIPZIG

08/2017 - 08/2019; 03/2017 - 04/2017

PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF KYOTO

07/2018

GERMAN CENTRE FOR MARINE BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH, SENCKENBERG GROUP

05/2017 - 07/2017

Student Assistant

BOTANICAL INSTITUTE, TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY DRESDEN (TUD)

05/2016 - 08/2016; 02/2015 - 08/2015

ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTION, TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY DRESDEN (TUD)

04/2016 - 05/2016; 11/2013 - 08/2015

Teaching & Supervision Activity

Bayesian Networks Study Group

AUTHOR & LECTURER

 [Personal Course Web Page](#)

AU Bayes Study Group

AUTHOR & LECTURER

 [Personal Course Web Page](#)

Excursions into Biostatistics

AUTHOR & LECTURER

 [Course Web Page](#)

An Introduction to Biostatistics Using R

AUTHOR & LECTURER

 [Course Web Page](#)

Biological Research in Theory and Praxis (BFTP)

AUTHOR

 [Course Web Page](#)

Teaching Assistant

APPLIED STATISTICS

[Aarhus University](#)

STATISTICAL AND GEOSPATIAL MODELLING

22/03/2021 - 14/05/2021

GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

03/09/2020 - 18/12/2020

27/10/2020 - 18/12/2020

Instructor & Advisor

ECOINFORMATICS & BIODIVERSITY MASTERS SEMINARS (EBMS), AARHUS UNIVERSITY

03/02/2021 - 05/05/2021

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION (BioCEED), UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

08/2017 - 07/2018

Talks & Workshops

Climate Data with the KrigR Pipeline Workshop

AUTHOR & SPEAKER, LIVING NORWAY COLLOQUIUM 2023

[Trondheim, Norway](#)

24/05/2023

Climate Data with the KrigR Pipeline Workshop

AUTHOR & SPEAKER, 5TH CONFERENCE OF NORDIC SOCIETY OIKOS 2022

[Aarhus, Denmark](#)

07/07/2022

Ecological Network Inference - Pipedream or Pipeline

INVITED SPEAKER, SALGO TEAM, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

[Oxford, England](#)

22/05/2022

KrigR - The R Package

SPEAKER, AK KLIMA INTERIMSTREFFEN

[Hamburg, Germany](#)

25/03/2021

KrigR - Downscaling State-of-the-Art Climate Data for Macroecologists

AUTHOR & SPEAKER, BIOCHANGE METHODS WORKSHOPS

[Aarhus, Denmark](#)

12/11/2020

KrigR - Climate Data For Your Spatial Study

INVITED SPEAKER, SALGO TEAM, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

18/06/2020

SPEAKER, INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL ECOLOGY CONFERENCE 2020

25/06/2020

Identifying Ecological-Memory Patterns in Drylands using Remote Sensing

INVITED SPEAKER, ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH GROUP, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

15/10/2019

SPEAKER, INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL MODELLING CONFERENCE 2019

04/10/2019

INVITED SPEAKER, ECOINFORMATICS AND BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH GROUP, UNIVERSITY OF AARHUS

06/09/2019

Spatial Patterns of Plant Performance

INVITED SPEAKER, BIO DAY, UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

[Bergen, Norway](#)

15/03/2019

Inferring Vegetation Memory from Remote Sensing Data

INVITED SPEAKER, SPATIAL ECOLOGY GROUP, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

[Glasgow, Scotland](#)

09/01/2019

Extracurricular Activity

Group Member

STATISTICS JOURNAL CLUB, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

03/2021 - 03/2023

SPATIAL SHARED-INTEREST GROUP, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

03/2021 - 03/2023

BAYES STUDY GROUP, UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

09/2018 - 12/2019

EECRG READING GROUP, UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

10/2017 - 12/2019

Leader & Dungeon Master

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM DUNGEONS & DRAGONS GROUP AARHUS UNIVERSITY SECTION

05/2023 - PRESENT

FOR ECOINFORMATICS DUNGEONS & DRAGONS GROUP

03/2022 - 01/2023

Elected Member: Students Council of Biology Studies at the TUD

Dresden, Germany

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DRESDEN

10/2013 - 10/2015

Writing

NetworkExtinction - an R package to simulate extinction's propagation and rewiring potential in ecological networks

M.ISIDORA ÁVILA-THIEME*, **ERIK KUSCH***, DEREK CORCORAN*, ..., NAVARRETE, PABLO A. MARQUET

* ... joint first-authorship; **Rx** Preprint - 2023

MOSAIC: A Unified Trait Database to Complement Structured Population Models

CONNOR BERNARD, GABRIEL SILVA SANTOS, [...], **ERIK KUSCH**, [...], ROBERTO SALGUERO-GÓMEZ

 *Nature Scientific Data* - 2023

A novel trophic cascade between cougars and feral donkeys shapes desert wetlands

ERIK LUNDGREN, DANIEL RAMP, OWEN MIDDLETON, EAMONN WOOSTER, **ERIK KUSCH**, [...], ARIAN WALLACH

 *Journal of Animal Ecology* - 2022

Vegetation memory effects and their association with vegetation resilience in global drylands

ERIK KUSCH, RICHARD DAVY, ALISTAIR SEDDON

 *Journal of Ecology* - 2022

KrigR - A Tool for Downloading and Statistically Downscaling Climate Reanalysis Data

ERIK KUSCH, RICHARD DAVY

 *Environmental Research Letters* - 2022

Reconciling high resolution climate datasets using KrigR

RICHARD DAVY, **ERIK KUSCH**

 *Environmental Research Letters* - 2021

Honours & Grants & Awards

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

10/2020 **Scholarship for Academically Excellent Students**, Frands Christian Frantsen's Scholarship

Aarhus, Denmark

03/2019 **Funding for Particularly Talented Students**, Lina Asbjørnsens Stipendiefond

Bergen, Norway

02/2019 **Fast-Track-Initiative Funding**, FTI, Bjerknessenteret

Bergen, Norway

03/2018 **Project Grant**, L. Meltzers Høyskolefond

Bergen, Norway

2018/19 **Scholarship**, German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes)

Bonn, Germany

AWARDS

10/2019 **Best Poster: Student and Early Career Researcher**, International Society for Ecological Modelling

Salzburg, Austria

10/2019 **Modeller's Choice Poster Award**, International Society for Ecological Modelling

Salzburg, Austria