Conceptual Figure Assignment

# Overview

Students will select a paper that tests a Biodiversity-Ecosystem Functioning hypothesis (preferably related to their own study system, where possible) and design a conceptual figure to show either a) what the proposed mechanism being tested is, b) how the experiment was conducted, or c) both. Papers selected should not already include a conceptual figure. The produced figure should have a caption, and should be formatted as though it were to be used in a scientific publication.

## Rationale

Conceptual figures are an excellent, and under-utilized, way to convey information in papers, talks, and even grant applications. The goal of this assignment is to provide you with practice designing conceptual figures as well as to help you better understand how Biodiversity-Ecosystem Functioning studies are conducted.

## Assignment Format

Assignments should be submitted as a Word document or PDF containing 1) a conceptual figure that you have made, 2) an associated caption, and 3) citation information for the paper. Captions can be relatively short or relatively long, depending on the figure you make. Assignments will be submitted via Canvas.

## Grading

Students will be graded on the clarity of the conceptual figure and associated caption.