

Authorship Discussion Notes

• It is usually really difficult for students and people lower on the pyramid to initiate discussions about authorship - post-docs and supervisors/PIs should initiate these discussions early, encourage open discussion of roles and expectations

- Same goes for drafting/establishing CRAs - these can be hard topics for students to broach, and higher-ups need to initiate/normalize these discussions and/or make clear that it's ok for students to ask/push for this

• If you're unsure whether or not somebody (a student, an assistant, and helpful statistician, etc) truly qualifies for authorship, you can
give them the option to 'opt in' on joint responsibility for the paper & their name as a co-author

• Depending on what they've already contributed, 'opting in' can be conditional on further contributions (e.g., help with writing and/or proofreading the manuscript, joining in on project meetings & contributing some ideas, translating the abstract, etc)

• Just because somebody was paid for their work, this doesn't preclude them from being credited as a co-author (but whether or not they have any interest in co-authorship may depend on their career goals wrt to academia)

- It is important to include co-authors who are from the area wherein the fieldwork for a study took place; involving habitat-country collaborators/staff is an important aspect of not doing helicopter/colonial science, and is also important for ensuring that our research is recognised and has impact in the areas where it comes from

- We should strive for habitat-country co-authors to be meaningful collaborators on, and participants in, our research (not just ‘token names’)

Habitat-country collaborators, students, assistants, etc, who meet (or nearly meet) the conditions for co-authorship should be given the opportunity to 'opt in' on authorship & joint responsibility

- Middle authorships won't 'make' your career, but they can still be really important, especially for students (building both their CV and their experience); on the flip side, there aren't any obvious/common drawbacks to having multiple middle authors on a paper that you have first- or last-authored, so when in doubt, it makes sense to be inclusive rather than exclusive

We should always list authors' contributions that specially-mind authors can be appropriately recognized

if this isn't required by the journal, and there isn't a specific space for it, then it could go in supplementary material

• **Where appropriate, make use of first-authorship and indicate equal contribution**

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- We should aim to always list authors' contributions so that - especially - middle authors' work can be appropriately recognized
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