Newsletter, September 2025

Website: https://www.sortee.org/
Twitter/X: @sortecoevo
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Slack: https://sortee.slack.com/

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Become a 2026 SORTEE volunteer!

Nominations are now open for three types of volunteer positions:

1. Member of the Board of Directors
2. Committee Chair
3. Committee Volunteer

More information is available in the **nomination form** (closes 31st October 2025).

Please consider applying! If you have friends/colleagues who care about open science in ecology and evolution, encourage them to apply too: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe1t7EK3MQPGPlSSJ14_-eSROkdLSV_Nt1Eg9l564u5dTeRag/viewform?usp=header. If they are not already a SORTEE member they can sign up free here.

SORTEE Conference 2025 - the program is now online!

We are excited to announce that the **program** for the **2025 SORTEE Conference** is now **available** online through the **SORTEE Shiny app**.

We look forward to your participation in unconferences, hackathons, workshops, introductions to open science and plenary presentations by:

1) **Dr. Israel Borokini:** *"Advancing Ecology and Evolutionary Research in the Global South - African context"*
2) **Prof. Simine Vazire:** *"Journal Prestige Can and Should be Earned"*

To register for the fifth SORTEE Conference, please visit: https://sortee.org/upcoming/.
Registration is **free** for SORTEE members. The conference will run **continuously** from **15 October 07:00 UTC to 16 October 10:00 UTC** to cover **all time zones**.

To join the mailing list and receive conference updates, click here. We send approximately 8 emails per year with important updates.
Please help us spread the word by inviting your colleagues!

As we prepare for the conference, we are looking for volunteers to help ensure its success. We are seeking people who are available between **19:00 PM UTC on October 15th and 06:00 AM UTC on October 16th** - see time zone converter. If you are interested in volunteering, please email us at conference@sortee.org!
See you in October!

The SORTEE Conference Committee

SORTEE virtual socials

Social Virtual: Conversa aberta sobre SORTEE (Virtual Social: Get to know SORTEE in Portuguese)

Esse evento é aberto ao público lusófono para se familiarizar com a SORTEE (o que é, qual a nossa missão e o que fazemos), e como podemos ajudar a ampliar a conversa sobre Ciência Aberta na sua comunidade.

 07-10-2025   18:00-18:30 UTC

https://events.humanitix.com/social-virtual-conversa-aberta-sobre-sortee-virtual-social-get-to-know-sortee-in-pt

O evento é feito em colaboração entre o comitê de Engajamento de Membros e o Capítulo Brasileiro da SORTEE. Junte-se a nós em #brazil-chapter no Grupo de Trabalho da SORTEE do Slack.

ENGLISH

This event is open to the Portuguese-speaking public at large, to get to know SORTEE (what it is, what is our mission and what we do), and how we can help amplify the conversation on open science in your community.

This event is made in collaboration between the Member Engagement Committee and the SORTEE Brazilian Chapter. Join us at #brazil-chapter at the SORTEE Slack Workspace.

The SORTEE Guidelines for Data and Code Quality Control in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (at EcoEvoRxiv)

It has become increasingly clear that deposited/archived data and code are often not sufficient to reproduce published results, either through low rates of archiving, or through the low quality of archived data and code. To address this, several ecology and evolutionary biology journals have recruited data editors. The role of these data editors is to assess the quality of the archived data and code and whether it meets

certain standards needed for high reproducibility, a process we refer to as data and code quality control.

After a panel discussion with data editors in January 2024, organised by the Education and Outreach committee as part of the SORTEE webinar series, it became clear to members of the advocacy committee that there were no clear guidelines for what a data editor should assess, and that practice varied greatly across data editors, both among and within journals. Starting with extensive consultation with multiple data editors for several different journals across ecology and evolution (American Naturalist, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Ecology Letters, Behavioural Ecology and Sociobiology, Peer Community In, and the Journal of Evolutionary Biology), the advocacy committee started to put together a set of detailed guidelines with the aim of standardising the practice of data and code quality control across ecology and evolutionary biology journals.

We are now pleased to announce [the release of these guidelines](#), which were the result of long discussions and the engagement of many dedicated data editors. We hope that these guidelines provide a consistent and standardised set of review stages for journals and data editors to follow when they check the data and code associated with a manuscript. This will also enable readers and authors to better understand what checks have been performed, particularly if these are made clear by the journal.

[The guidelines](#) cover many different checks, from the presence of data to assessing full computational reproducibility (the reported results can be recreated with the provided data and code). As we recognise that the capacity for different journals to assess these components, as well as their motivations for doing so, will vary widely, we have broken the guidelines into 6 stages, which journals can choose to adopt in a stepwise manner. Stages 1-2 (checking the quality of archived data and metadata, and that it matches what is reported in the manuscript) allow for data re-use, stages 3-4 (checking the quality of archived code and metadata, and that it matches what is reported in the manuscript) promote increased transparency, and stages 5-6 (check the code runs and reproduces reported results) enable full computational reproducibility to be assessed. Journals can therefore increase the transparency of

the data and code quality control process by clearly stating what stages are routinely checked by their data editors.

Aside from providing a standardised and detailed template for existing data editors, [these guidelines](#) provide a valuable resource for other journals, which we hope will prompt them to consider recruiting data editors to increase the quality of shared data and code across ecology and evolution and more broadly.

SORTEE at ESEB (European Society For Evolutionary Biology)

SORTEE hosted a symposium on open science at the 2025 ESEB Conference in Barcelona, Spain. It was hugely successful and well attended! The symposium was hosted by current SORTEE president Ed Ivimey-Cook and president-elect, Marija Purgar. We had six fantastic speakers, including an invited talk by Dr. Malgorzata (Losia) Lagisz (Board and committee member), who discussed inclusive meta-research for transparency; and Joel Pick (Chair of the Advocacy committee) who discussed the role of journals in promoting diverse and credible research culture. Both of these talks showcased the large variety of research happening at SORTEE.

Joel Pick (SORTEE Advocacy Committee chair)

Losia Lagisz (SORTEE board member)

Other talk topics ranged from the importance of career breaks to lessons learned from Covid-19 on Open Science practices. SORTEE also had a number of poster presentations that further highlighted the many diverse open science initiatives across EcoEvo.

SORTEE also organised a well-attended meetup for anyone interested in open science and SORTEE.

Add links to sortee.org on your website

If you have a website, please consider adding a link to sortee.org. The more websites that link to sortee.org, the higher our search engine rankings will be. This will help people searching on Google or other search engines find us more readily. Thanks!

SORTEE Commendation Awards

Do you have a project that exemplifies open science in ecology and evolution? If so nominate the project for a SORTEE Commendation Award

The SORTEE Commendation Awards aim to highlight projects that align with the aims and values of society. A project is defined as any work that is an initiative benefiting the eco-evo community by fostering open science values or practices (e.g., journal clubs, workshops, seminar series, websites, repositories, tools, educational materials, public talks, podcasts, etc.). The SORTEE Commendation Awards recognise that projects are often team efforts. As such, the contributions of all project members, rather than individuals, will be highlighted. SORTEE warmly encourages diverse nominations in terms of team membership. Project nominations can be submitted year-round until two months before the SORTEE conference. For further information, see the SORTEE awards website.

SORTEE supporters in 2025

Here is the updated list of SORTEE partner organizations for 2025. Check out the SORTEE supporters webpage here and get in touch (sortecoevo@gmail.com) if you or an organization you know would like to support SORTEE!

Notices from outside SORTEE

Announcing the Journal of Robustness Reports

The Journal of Robustness Reports is a new online journal (https://scipost.org/JRobustRep) devoted to publishing short re-analyses of data underpinning previously published research findings. There is growing recognition across probabilistic empirical disciplines that there is no single best set of analytical choices for a given data set, and that outcomes can vary in important ways due to differences in analytical choices. Given these conditions, access to multiple distinct and reasonable analyses of the same data should improve understanding of the range of plausible outcomes from a given dataset. Read about the journal in the inaugural editorial (https://scipost.org/JRobustRep.0-Editorial).

Is there a published study that you think merits an assessment of robustness? If you have the time to conduct the analyses and write the brief (500 word) accompanying text, you could publish your re-analysis in this journal. Help spread the culture of robustness checks!

Submit to the SORTEE Newsletter

We welcome submissions to our newsletter. If you know of anything that SORTEE should or could announce (events, publications, announcements, ideas) in our newsletter, please let us know by sending an email to sortee.media@gmail.com (We do not advertise commercial services or products)

2025 SORTEE leadership team

Ed Ivimey-Cook (President, Board Member)

Kaija Gahm (Secretary)

Alexa Fredston (Treasurer)

Rose O'Dea (Past-President)

Marija Purgar (Board Member, President-elect)

Malgorzata (Losia) Lagisz (Board Member)

Matthieu Paquet (Board Member, Fundraising Committee Chair)

Patrice Pottier (Board Member)

Alfredo Sánchez-Tójar (Board Member)

Michael Bertram (Board Member)

Stephanie Flaman (Board Member)

Joel Pick (Advocacy Committee Chair)

Hannah Dugdale (Awards Committee Chair)

Juliette Tariel-Adam (Conference Committee Chair)

Brooke Long-Fox and Friederike (Freddy) Hilleman (DEI Committee Chairs)

Daniel Noble and Stefan Vriend (EcoEvoRxiv Committee Chairs)

Saoirse Kelleher (Education and Outreach Chair)

Tim Parker (Media Committee Chair)

Natalie van Dis (Member Engagement Committee Chair)