



# SORTEE

Society for Open, Reliable, and Transparent  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

## Newsletter, March 2023

<https://www.sortee.org/>

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## Message from the newsletter editor

Dear SORTEE members,

SORTEE has been busy in the first few months of 2023. Thanks to many of you for your contributions to these efforts, and if you're feeling left out and want to get more involved, reach out to me or to any other member of the SORTEE leadership team listed at the end of the newsletter. I hope the many projects described in this newsletter get you inspired and excited.

-[Tim Parker](#), SORTEE Newsletter Editor

## We want your suggestions for social media posts!

SORTEE wants a bigger social media presence, and we think you can help. If you have information you'd like to share via SORTEE's social media accounts ([Mastodon](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#)), please let us know with [this form](#).

We welcome any information relevant to openness, reliability, or transparency in ecology, evolutionary biology, or related disciplines.

We would love to hear your suggestions for:

- (a) papers or other published materials (including preprints)
- (b) software
- (c) educational materials / tutorials
- (d) news or announcements (including about events sponsored by other organizations)

## EcoEvoRxiv update

After four years of excellent leadership from Shinichi Nakagawa, Dan Noble took over chairing the [EcoEvoRxiv](#) committee in January. Under Dan's leadership, the preprint [Team](#) has been busy in 2023. Here is the report from Dan:

We have now surpassed 1000 preprints with between 8-12 new preprints coming in per week. In the past month, our preprints have been accessed > 25,000 times and downloaded >11,500 times. We are also actively moving forward a number of initiatives including:

- **Finalizing plans to take non-English preprints.** We're starting with Spanish as our first additional language, and should be ready to start accepting both Spanish and Portuguese preprints within a month.
- **Better integration with *Peer Community In (PCI)*.** We are excited about the partnership we are developing with PCI. As described on the PCI website (<https://peercommunityin.org>), "The goal of PCI is to evaluate and recommend preprints. Recommended preprints are valid, citable and final articles." In other words, PCI provides peer review for pre-prints, and when pre-prints meet their standard, PCI provides a formal recommendation. In the coming weeks, the submitting authors of all new preprints accepted by EcoEvoRiv will receive an email that directs them to PCI Evolution and PCI Ecology and walks authors through the process of submitting for PCI peer review should they so choose. We are also working on better integration with PCI reviews and recommendations so that the DOI assigned to a PCI recommendation will be displayed with the corresponding preprint at EcoEvoRxiv.
- The EcoEvoRxiv [Twitter account](#) remains active in tweeting any new preprints, and we have now moved to a monthly 'Featured Preprint' which will highlight important papers submitted to EcoEvoRxiv.
- Our alignment with the **California Digital Library** team has been an asset and we are actively updating the [EcoEvoRxiv web page](#) with new features requested by preprint managers and authors. These features should facilitate the above initiatives. Our next steps are to explore Registered Reports with PCI, but we currently have some limitations in our system we are trying to overcome.

## Education and Outreach overview

The Education and Outreach committee has been hard at work building support for ongoing initiatives and developing new initiatives. This year, our committee is taking over responsibility of conference meetups and of the workshop and webinar series. Please help us to reach a broad audience by putting in requests for [speakers](#) and [topics](#) for the webinar series and for offering to [host a meet-up](#) at a conference (more information below!) We are also in the process of developing a public Zotero library of recent, open-science-related resources. Please help us to leverage the collective expertise of SORTEE members by [submitting a recent resource](#) that you think would benefit our members! We hope not to change the categories too much from here on forward, but do not hesitate to reach out if you have feedback on the form. Once we have sufficiently built up the library, we plan to collate related resources into a series of short newsletter-style updates and social media feeds on emerging tools and topics of relevance to our members.

## SORTEE in-person meet-ups

Over the past year, SORTEE has begun hosting meet-ups at in-person conferences related to ecology, evolutionary biology, or related fields. These events have been an excellent way to reach new members and to build community among our current members.



*SORTEE meet-up at SFE2-GfÖ-EEF*

If you plan to attend an in-person conference and would like to meet other SORTEE members, you can see the list of upcoming meet-ups [here](#). If there is not yet a SORTEE meet-up for the conference you will be attending, please propose one [here](#). We may provide up to \$250 to support the meet-up, which can be used for food and beverages. As a member, you can also request access to our promotional material to present, e.g. poster (slides, informational booth) at in person, hybrid or online conference. You can find out more [about these opportunities on our website](#).

## Monthly Workshops and Webinars series

The first six months of the [workshop and webinar series](#) has been an overwhelming success! These six workshops reached over 200 participants and have ranged in focus from R Markdown to Open Educational Resources. They have been met with glowing reviews from participants, which have included SORTEE members and non-members. We look forward to continuing this series in 2023 to support training in and awareness of open, reliable, and transparent research practices. These events are completely free of charge and open to the public.

Your input into which workshop topics might be of broad interest and your help in identifying speakers to run these workshops are invaluable. If you know someone (including yourself!) who might be a great candidate to speak at such an event, please suggest them [here](#). Or, if you are interested in seeing a specific topic or skill included in our series but do not have a speaker in mind, please let us know [here](#). We also welcome suggestions from the public, so please feel free to share these links on social media!

Our [next workshop](#) is scheduled for the last week of March (exact day and time t.b.a.) and will focus on data management, network building, and collaboration. Please keep an eye on our [workshops and webinars page](#), our

[Mastodon](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) accounts and help to spread the word once the event is posted!

## 2023 SORTEE Conference date announced

The third annual [SORTEE Conference](#) will be held virtually in October 2023 (continuously from [17 October 0700 UTC to 18 October 0700 UTC](#), to cover all timezones).

The conference is a forum to [discuss and develop ideas](#) for improving research in fields related to ecology and evolutionary biology. The 2023 conference will include three types of events:

**Unconferences:** Facilitated discussions of ideas for how to make ecology, evolutionary biology, and related disciplines more open, reliable, and transparent. Facilitation involves moderating the conversation with ideas and examples, but there are no formal presentations.

**Hackathons:** Group projects with well-defined goals (papers, techniques, software, protocols, organizations, etc.).

**Workshops:** Facilitators will teach tools for implementing open, reliable, and transparent research practices.

Conference registration and content submissions will soon open - keep an eye out for the announcement (content submission will close on June 1st). The link for content submissions and registrations will appear on the SORTEE webpage: <https://www.sortee.org/upcoming>.

For more information on the conference, please contact us at  
[conf.sortee@gmail.com](mailto:conf.sortee@gmail.com)

We hope to see you in October!

-The [SORTEE Conference Committee](#)

## DEI committee update

SORTEE aspires to be a society for all and therefore puts high value on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). We have our own DEI committee with representatives spread out over all layers of the society to ensure inclusiveness. This committee also acts as a consultant to other committees, and provides advice and analyses regarding DEI topics. Currently, the DEI committee is taking initiative on the evaluation of the types of memberships that SORTEE offers, the language used on the website and official documents, and the code of conduct within our society. The committee will also develop a climate survey to find future areas to work on improving diversity and inclusion within the Society. If you have questions, remarks or suggestions regarding DEI, feel free to contact the DEI chair [Bawan Amin](#).

## Propose the next SORTEE infographic

Members of SORTEE have so far created three infographics; bite-sized visual guides on various open science-related themes. You can have a look here: <https://www.sortee.org/infographics/>. These infographics are free to use, share, and post. Please use them to help spread the word about open, reliable, and transparent science! We want to produce more, but we need your ideas to provide to our skilled design team. If you would like to suggest topics for forthcoming infographics - please use [this](#) form.

The infographic content can vary in form, from short bullet-point guides on open science practices, to interesting stats, or recent research. When we receive your content idea, we will use it to produce infographics with a consistent layout.

Before you go to the submission form, please take a few minutes to compose draft text you would like the graphic to contain (aim for short labels, avoid long blocks of text; one short paragraph with commentary, 50-150 words at most, may be OK if needed), and to describe your idea for the visual form of the infographic (a rough sketch will do, too!). If in doubt, please contact SORTEE's visual design manager [Szymek Drobniak](#). All contributors will be credited on final illustrations, and involved in the design process led by our design team.

## Growing the SORTEE membership

The SORTEE Board of Directors has identified growing our membership as one of the primary goals of 2023. Many of our efforts described elsewhere in this newsletter were designed with this goal in mind. If you have colleagues you think might be interested in learning more about SORTEE, please share this newsletter or direct them to our [website](#).

One step towards our goal of attracting more members was articulating a list of benefits to SORTEE members. If you think we've left anything off, please let us know. Here is our list:

- Join a community of people helping to improve research by making it more open, reliable, and transparent.
- Network! Meet and forge connections with others interested in open, reliable, and transparent science.
- Find new research collaborators.
- Enjoy preferential access to SORTEE workshops and webinars.

- Learn new skills related to making your research open, reliable, and transparent.
- Develop and test new research practices (for instance during conference hackathons).
- Contribute and shape ideas for improving the reliability of the science of ecology, evolutionary biology, and related disciplines.
- Help bring cultural change to academia.
- Gain eligibility for SORTEE open science awards.
- Attend the SORTEE annual conference at reduced rates.
- Receive SORTEE's newsletter by email to stay tuned to new developments in open science, research transparency, and study reliability.
- Vote for leadership positions to influence the direction of the Society.
- Nominate colleagues (or yourself!) for SORTEE leadership positions.
- Join SORTEE committees to make a difference ([Link](#)).

## New SORTEE position: Editorial Journal Liaison

We have created a new position within SORTEE to serve as an advisor to journal editorial offices on the implementation of editorial practices that promote transparency, reproducibility and diversity. In our experience, many journal editors want to adopt progressive policies, but don't know where to turn for expert advice. We look forward to providing that advice from SORTEE members with editorial experience.

## 2023 SORTEE leadership team

Esteban Fernandez-Juricic (President)

Ed Ivimey-Cook (Secretary)

Alexa Fredston (Treasurer)

Rose O'Dea (President-Elect for 2024)

Dominique Roche (Past-President, Fundraising Committee Chair)

Kaija Gahm (Board member)

Tim Parker (Board member, Media Committee Chair)

Patrice Pottier (Board member)

Alfredo Sánchez Tójar (Board member)

Bawan Amin (DEI Committee Chair)

Antica Culina (Advocacy Committee Chair)

Natasha Gownaris (Education and Outreach Chair)

Daniel Noble (EcoEvoRxiv Committee Chair)

Matthieu Paquet (Conference Committee Chair)