

Society of Systematic Biologists Program Director's Report

Mark T. Holder

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Symposia

Jessica Ware and the DEI committee have organized an excellent symposium for the 2021 Evolution meetings. The Symposium will occur on Thursday June, 24th. The title is "SSB Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Symposium: Diversifying Evolution." It will consist of talks and roundtable discussion. The talks are:

- Bryan Carstens, Ohio State University "Scientific Societies and the Publishing Ecosystem"
- Gabriel Bernardello, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba - Museo Botanico "A South American naturalist in the 21st Century"
- Lauren Esposito, California State Academy "Identity as a Pathway: Scorpion Evolution and Queer Advocacy"
- Herve Sauquet, Royal Botanic Garden "Queering Flower Evolution"
- Kory Evans, Rice University "The Evolution Mosaic of the Fish Skull: a Quest for Answers and Identity"
- Chris Hamilton, University of Idaho "Understanding Aphonopelma Diversity across the Madrean Pine-Oak Woodlands Hotspot by Integrating Western Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)"
- Ambika Kamath, Colorado University, Boulder "Stronger Together: Lessons for DEI from Union Organizing"

Due to cancellation of the 2020 meeting we do not anticipate having to advertise for symposia slots for the 2022 meeting. Below is the information on the cancelled symposia and their status; this info is identical to the information on this topic in the February 2021 report.

Specifics on each SSB event for the canceled 2020 meeting

Symposium 1: "PhyloCode 2020: Naming the Tree of Life"

Organizers: Nico Cellinese and Michael Donoghue

Response: preferred to wait until an in-person meeting. In the Fall, indicated a willingness to hold a meeting in the online 2021 meeting, if necessary. I encouraged these organizers to re-apply for 2022, when we were cut down to one topical SSB symposium slot in 2021.

Symposium 2: "How do we make decisions about data and analyses in systematic biology? It depends!"

Organizers: Natya Hans, Alexandra Hernandez, and Chloe Nash

Response: In the Fall, indicated a willingness to hold a meeting in the online 2021 meeting, if necessary. In January, 2021 the organizers told me that it would be difficult for them to organize a symposium at the 2021 meeting because of conflicts that had recently emerged; They would prefer to organize a symposium for the 2022 meeting.

Workshop 1: “Using simulations to learn about data on phylogenetics and comparative studies”

Organizers: Daniel Caetano

Response: preferred not to present in an online form after the 2020 cancellation. Luke Harmon talked to Daniel about trying again in 2022.

Workshop 2: “Robust tree inference from large phylogenomic datasets”

Organizers: Siavash Mirarab, Lisa Pokorny, and Tandy Warnow

Response: I need to get back in touch with Tandy to see if she wants to have a workshop adjacent to/associated with the 2021 meeting.

Ad hoc funding requests

No requests since I have become the program director. There was some discussion of the possibility of SSB partially funding the Evolution Film Festival/Video Contest in association with this year’s meeting. However, ASN decided to fund that. Funding for that activity may rotate between the three societies in the coming years.