

## The future of conservation culturomics and iEcology – from species to ecosystems, campaigns, and organizations

Workshop program, MDDE, April 2020

### Overview

Global natural environments are undergoing dramatic and rapid human induced changes. Tackling these necessitates fundamental changes in how we engage with our planet. While the challenges of addressing the environmental crisis we are facing are vast, new opportunities of managing these in the digital age have been developing in recent years. *Conservation culturomics* is a new field that aims to look at human-nature interactions as these are manifested in the, ever expanding, digital realm. These interactions can prove extremely insightful in both understanding the patterns behind human interest, value, and knowledge towards nature and conservation. *iEcology* is the study of patterns and processes in the natural world using data generated, either deliberately or passively, for other purposes and stored digitally. These data provide opportunities for addressing fundamental ecological questions and analyzing ecological processes at many spatiotemporal scales and across a diverse range of contexts. Together these fields hold much promise in both (real-time) spatial monitoring of community dynamics that will provide critical new information for policy makers, science and the general public, and better understand how people interact with nature to improve conservation actions' reach and efficiency.

The proposed workshop will bring together the leading global researchers in these two fields in order to summarize current challenges and solutions, target areas of future research needs, and expose these ideas to the local research community. Further details on conservation culturomics can be found here: <https://www.conservationculturomics.com/>

### Program

The workshop will be structured into three research themes, which will be complemented with plenary presentations by the leading researchers in the field of conservation culturomics and iEcology. We expect 10-15 people to come to the workshop proper with more attending several keynote lectures.

The workshop will also provide PhD students and early-career researchers with an opportunity to collaborate with other researchers from around the world, including leading conservation scientists, and to learn key skills for the development of their careers.

We expect at least one key publication summarizing the workshops outputs to be published in a top tier journal (we have already good experience with such outputs) for example a review/perspective centering around – ‘application of culturomic insights to conservation management and policy’.



The workshop will comprise of two full days of lectures and discussion. The tentative dates for it are 5-6/April/2020. The Workshop will take place in SIDEER in the Sde-Boqer campus of BGU.

### Tentative schedule

#### **Day 1**

- 09:30-10:00 Gathering & Coffee  
10:00-11:00 Introduction to the workshop, themes, structure and expected outcomes  
11:00-13:00 Theme 1 - major challenges for conservation culturomics and iEcology – where do we go from here.  
13:00-14:00 Lunch break  
14:00-16:00 Theme 1 – data and tools for culturomics- challenges and solutions in accessing, storing, and analyzing big online data.  
16:00-16:30 Coffee break  
16:30-18:30 Theme1/3 – how do we make culturomic and iEcology approaches and tools more accessible to conservation practitioners and scientists.  
19:00 Dinner

#### **Day 2**

- 09:00-11:00 Theme 2 – Beyond species- how do culturomics data and methods are transferred when exploring trends for organisms, animal behavior, habitats, organizations, and people.  
11:00-11:30 Coffee break  
11:30-13:00 Theme 2 – global sentiment analysis towards species and beyond- what do people actually want from conservation?  
13:00-14:00 Lunch break  
14:00-15:30 Theme 3 – culturomics and human behavior- using culturomics tools and insights to promote change in people's pro-environmental behaviors.  
15:30-16:00 coffee break  
16:00-18:00 Workshop summation, discussions, future targets, and detailed assignments.

### Tentative lectures

Tentative lecture titles by guest invited speakers (that have already expressed their intention to come to the workshop):

- Prof. Enrico di Minin, University of Helsinki - support and limits for culturomic research in the future and how do we adapt to this
- Dr. Ricardo Correia, University of Helsinki - How culturomics can be used to explore other entities of conservation interest apart from species
- Dr. Diogo Verissimo, University of Oxford - The global sentiment analysis framework for wildlife.
- Dr Ivan Jaric, the Czech Academy of Sciences – Novel tools to mine online resources for iEcology information.

- Dr. Andrea Soriano Redondo, CIBIO-InBIO Portugal - Assessing the impact of outreach campaigns by NGOs and organizations using culturomics.
- Prof. Richard Ladle, Federal University of Alagoas, Brazil – Setting up an international digital monitoring station for the status of the natural world using culturomics.
- Dr. Ana C M Malhado, Federal University of Alagoas, Brazil – using culturomics to affect on-the-ground conservation.
- Dr. Samantha Cheng, the American Museum of Natural History – How culturomics can aid in bridging gaps between different stakeholders and organizations to promote conservation.
- Dr. Oded Berger-Tal, BGU – using available online video resources to gain insights for conservation behavior research and management

For further details please don't hesitate to contact the workshop organizer - Uri Roll – [uriroll@bgu.ac.il](mailto:uriroll@bgu.ac.il)

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Workshop budget, MDDE, April 2020

Cost breakdown for the proposed workshop that will take place at the Sede-Boqer Campus of BGU during 2 days in April.

<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost breakdown</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>
Flight from Helsinki to Israel (Dr. Correia)	\$400	400
Flight from England to Israel (Dr. Verissimo)	\$500	500
Flight from Portugal to Israel (Dr. Sorriano Redondo)	\$500	500
Flight from the Czech Rep. to Israel (Dr. Jaric)	\$400	400
Flight from the USA to Israel (Dr. Cheng)	\$1300	1300
Per diem for 8 participants	\$60*8	480
Travel from Beer-Shiba To Sde-Boker	\$100*4	400
Accommodation for foreign participants (3 nights)	\$75*3*8	1800
Accommodation for Israeli participants (2 nights)	\$75*2*5	750
Food for all participants (2 days)	\$75*2*15	2250
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>\$8780</b>
<b><u>Funds requested from SIDEER</u></b>		<b><u>\$2000</u></b>

Funding requests sought - \$2000 from BCSC (yet to receive response)

Other sources that will be approached – BGU Rector, President's office

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