



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research
The Swiss Institute for Dryland Environmental and Energy Research
Mitrani Department of Desert Ecology

Seminar

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Seminar Room, Old Administration Building



It's Time for Time: The Role of Temporal Linkages in Seasonal Ecosystems

Spatial and temporal heterogeneity are increasingly being considered in ecological systems. A better understanding of their role has become imperative because of changes in precipitation and temperature associated with climate change. Temporary freshwater ecosystems (e.g., seasonal wetlands, floodplains, temporary streams), which consist of aquatic and terrestrial habitat at a single location in the landscape, are especially sensitive to these changes. Ecological research and management tend to focus on hydroperiod effects (inundation length) on the aquatic or terrestrial phases of these ecosystems. Few studies have considered both phases and their interaction when approaching community dynamics of these unique ecosystems. This talk will present a novel conceptual framework for understanding seasonal ecosystems and empirical evidence from California vernal pools. The general concepts have implications for our understanding of the ecology of all temporally heterogeneous habitats, conservation strategies for these habitats, and the management of endangered species.