



# NEWSLETTER

SINO-ECOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION OVERSEAS

中華海外生態學者協會



Cover photo: fairy circle in Namib Desert (left, by Lixin Wang); fall color in Hope Valley near Lake Tahoe in Northern California (right, by Charlie Huang)



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[www.sino-eco.org](http://www.sino-eco.org)



## Letter from the President

### Executive Committee

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**Songlin Fei**

Vice President

**Jiafu Mao**

Secretary

**Jing Yuan**

Treasurer

**Lifei Wang**

Scholarship and Award  
Officer

**Lixin Wang**

Webinar coordinator

**Mingzhen Lu**

Newsletter Editor

**Chao Song**

Adviser and Former Sino-  
Eco President

**Charlie Huang**

### Advisory Committee

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**Yiqi Luo**

**Yude Pan**

**Changhui Peng**

**Ge Sun**

**Jianwu Tang**

**Xiaohua Wei**

**Jianguo Wu**

**Bin Zhu**

Dear Sino-Eco members and friends,

It is my honor to inform you that we have now officially formed the 2020-2022 Sino-Eco Executive Board. Here is a list of your board members.

**Songlin Fei** – President (Purdue)

**Jiafu Mao** – Vice President (Oak Ridge National Lab)

**Charlie Huang** – Adviser and Past President (CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife)

**Jing Yuan** – Secretary (Michigan State Univ.)

**Lifei Wang** – Treasurer (Univ. Toronto)

**Lixin Wang** – Scholarship and Award Officer (IUPUI)

**Chao Song** – Newsletter (Michigan State Univ.)

**Mingzhen Lu** – Webinar (Sante Fe Institute)

As the president of Sino-Eco, I am excited to share with you that we have planned a set of activities for the upcoming year to facilitate the communication and collaboration among our members. Given the various difficult challenges we are all facing, especially the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is especially critical for us to keep an active, healthy, transparent communication platform to facilitate these much-needed collaborations. Sino-Eco has the tradition and is poised to continue serve an important role in helping our members to deal with these challenges. During the next two years, we plan to work on the following major tasks:

- **Sino-Eco Talks** – We will hold a monthly seminar series with the combination of both junior and senior presenters to showcase their research, discuss research trend, and provide career development advices.
- **Mentor network** – We hope to establish a mentoring network between junior and senior members to address targeted, critical needs in career development, grant writing, paper writing, etc.
- **Collaboration** – We will promote the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and scientific development in ecology by working on collaborative projects. For example, we will organize some special issues in various journals and books on member generated topics.

I hope that together we can continue the long tradition and success of Sino-Eco. I strongly believe that effective collaborations among ecologists and scientists from other related disciplines across the globe could better solve the standing and emerging ecological and environmental challenges.

Regards,

Songlin Fei

(On behalf of all executive committee members)

# Meet the 2020-2022 Sino-Eco Executive Committee

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## President

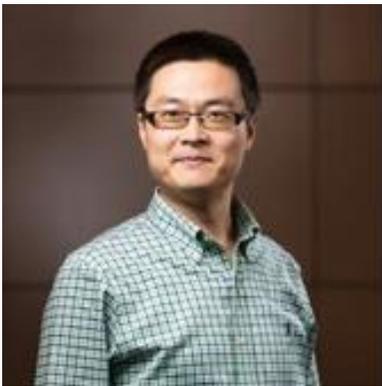
### Songlin Fei

Overseeing all activities and events in the organization

Title: Dean's Chair Professor, Department Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University

Research: forest ecology, invasion ecology, geospatial analysis

Email: [sfei@purdue.edu](mailto:sfei@purdue.edu)



## Vice President

### Jiafu Mao

In charge of organizing events and communications

Title: R&D Staff Scientist, Oak Ridge national Laboratory

Research: land-climate feedback, terrestrial system modeling

Email: [maoj@ornl.gov](mailto:maoj@ornl.gov)

Website: <https://www.ornl.gov/staff-profile/jiafu-mao>



## Secretary

### Jing Yuan

In charge of meeting notes and Sino-Eco website

Title: Research Associate, Center for Global Change and Earth Observation, Michigan State University

Research: landscape ecology, ecosystem ecology, geospatial analysis, remote sensing

Email: [jingyuan77@gmail.com](mailto:jingyuan77@gmail.com)



## Treasurer

### Lifei Wang

In charge of finance and assisting association events

Title: Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Toronto

Research: Species distribution modeling, time series modeling, aquatic and fisheries ecology, aquatic invasive species ecology, aquatic heavy metal pollution

Email: [lifei.wang@utoronto.ca](mailto:lifei.wang@utoronto.ca)



### Scholarship and Award Officer

#### Lixin Wang

In charge of scholarship and awards

Title: Associate Professor, Department of Earth Sciences,  
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Research: Ecohydrology, drylands, droughts, isotopes

Email: [lxwang@iupui.edu](mailto:lxwang@iupui.edu)

Website: <https://earthsciences.iupui.edu/~lxwang>



### Webinar Coordinator

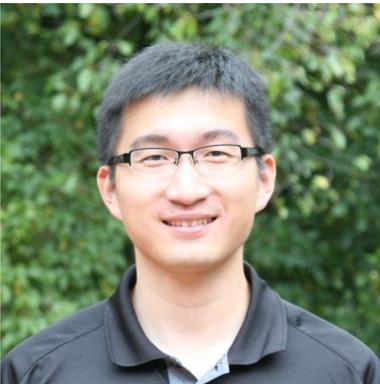
#### Mingzhen Lu

In charge of organizing Sino-Eco webinars

Title: Omidyar Complexity Fellow, Santa Fe Institute

Research: ecosystem ecology, biogeochemistry, evolutionary  
theory, mathematical biology

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### Newsletter Editor

#### Chao Song

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### Advisor and Past Sino-Eco President

#### Charlie Huang

Advising association activities

Title: Staff Scientist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Research: ecological risk assessment, aquatic toxicology

Email: [Charlie.huang@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Charlie.huang@wildlife.ca.gov)

## Sino-Eco announces a new online seminar series

Sino-Eco is excited to announce a new online seminar series in the broad field of ecology, and evolutionary biology. The seminar will be held monthly and information about the upcoming seminars will be announced in various Sino-Eco social media channels. Seminars are recorded and will be available in [Sino-Eco YouTube channel](#) shortly after each talk.

The first Sino-Eco talk, titled “Ecological civilization and sustainability science: with some reflections from Sino-Eco’s past”, was given by Dr. [Jianguo Wu](#) from Arizona State University. Dr. Wu’s talk synthesized major development in sustainability sciences and reflected the history of Sino-Eco in promoting ecological research. The next Sino-Eco talk will be given by Dr. [Chuliang Song](#) from McGill University on November 2, 2020.



**Sino-Ecologist Association Overseas  
Sino-Eco Talks**

**What**  
A nonparametric topological approach to understand the discontinuities in ecological assembly

**Who**  
Dr. Chuliang Song

**When**  
5 PM, 11/2/2020, Eastern Time  
8 PM, 11/2/2020, Pacific Time  
8 AM, 11/3/2020, Beijing Time

**Where**  
Zoom link  
Meeting ID: 930 1704 1764  
Passcode: 128980

**Speaker's Biography**  
Chuliang Song is currently a postdoc co-supervised by Andrew Gonzalez at McGill University and Marie-Josée Fortin at University of Toronto. He received a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from MIT in 2020, and a BS in Mathematics from Zhejiang University in 2016. His research focuses on understanding the diversity (or lack of diversity) that we observe in nature via structural stability of local ecological systems.

**Mission**  
Promote the exchanges of ideas and knowledge.  
Facilitate constructive mutual understanding, and  
Collaborate creative collaborations among Chinese ecologists overseas, and ultimately to contribute to the growth of the discipline of ecology and its related sciences.

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Sino-Eco Facebook L&L  
Wechat Group: SINO-ECO (invitation only)



## Yude Pan honored as 2020 ESA Fellow



Former Sino-Eco president, Dr. [Yude Pan](#), was elected as the 2020 Ecological Society of America fellow. The fellowship program recognizes contributions to ecological research and discovery, communication, education and pedagogy, and management and policy. Dr. Pan is a Senior Research Scientist at USDA Forest Service. She was elected for her ground-breaking contribution to scientific understanding of forests and global carbon cycling, emphasizing the magnitude and pattern of the forest carbon sink, the importance of reducing tropical deforestation and degradation for climate change mitigation, and the critical role of forest age distributions when addressing disturbance legacies.

## Lixin Wang received 2020 Research Frontiers Trailblazer Award



[Dr. Lixin Wang](#), scholarship and award officer at Sino-Eco and an associate professor of earth sciences at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), received the 2020 Research Frontiers Trailblazer Award. Established in 2010, the award recognizes outstanding IUPUI researchers who show promise in becoming nationally and internationally known for their research and creative activity. It is given to associate professors within the first three years of being appointed or promoted to that title.

## Jinshi Jian received 2020 Sino-Eco best paper award

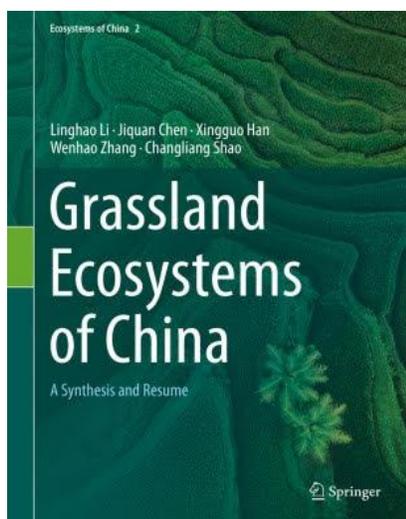
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Dr. [Jinshi Jian](#), a postdoctoral research associate at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, received the 2020 Sino-Eco best paper award for his article “[A calculator to quantify cover crop effects on soil health and productivity](#)” published in Soil & Tillage Research. Dr. Jian and coauthors compiled existing studies on the effect of cover crop and developed a calculator that allows users to evaluate how cover crop usage affects key soil health indicators. The results of this study may help make soil health evaluation a practical tool for producers.



## New Book on grassland ecosystems of China

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A new book titled “[Grassland Ecosystems of China: A Synthesis and Resume](#)” was published in September by Springer. Former Sino-Eco presidents, Jiquan Chen and Xingguo Han, are coauthors of this book.

This book provides a comprehensive overview of the grassland ecosystems in China based on publications by Chinese scholars. It offers an up-to-date review of the recent advances in grassland research in China, discusses the climatic and physical conditions governing the grasslands, describes their types and distribution, and introduces a new classification scheme for grassland ecosystems. Further, it details the plant, animal, and microbial compositions of each grassland ecosystem type, examining the above and below ground relationships between phytomass,

vegetation succession, and past/current management practices with a particular focus on the steppes in China. It also includes references that are only available in the Chinese language. This scientifically rigorous book offers insights into knowledge gaps for the scientific community and identifies pressing issues facing practitioners of grassland ecology and management. Each chapter can be independently used as a reading materials for undergraduate and graduate students in ecology, environmental science, natural resource management, agriculture, and other relevant fields; it is also a valuable reference for researchers studying drylands in China or around the globe.

This book is the second volume of the book series Ecosystems of China. China is among the world’s most ecological diverse countries, yet books and monographs that comprehensively document the knowledge of these diverse ecosystems in China remain rare in the English language literature. The paucity of content on Chinese ecosystems in the English literature impede the incorporation and extension of relevant Chinese research into the international intellectual sources. This book series on the ecosystems of China, organized by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Chinese Academy of Forestry, and Chinese Academy of Sciences, aims to fill such a knowledge gap. Future volumes of the series will cover forest, cropland, and hydro-ecosystems.

## Jiafu Mao received the Stanley I. Auerbach Award

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Dr. [Jiafu Mao](#), vice president of Sino-Eco and R&D staff scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), received the Stanley I. Auerbach Award within the Environmental Sciences division at ORNL. This annual individual award was presented to recognize “his outstanding contribution to advancing our understanding and prediction of causes and consequences of climate change through creative use of modeling and observation synthesis at scales from landscape to globe”.

## PhD opportunity at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

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The Department of Earth Sciences at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) seeks a motivated student interested in pursuing a PhD in Applied Earth Sciences. The student will work on the impacts of cover crops on environmental quality through field observations and data synthesis. The position is available from Fall 2021 and will be fully supported through a federal grant. The student will be co-advised by [Prof. Lixin Wang](#) and [Prof. Pierre-André Jacinthe](#). Applicants must hold a master’s degree with a background in agriculture, earth sciences, hydrology, environmental sciences or related disciplines, and have strong oral and written communication skills.

IUPUI is Indiana's premier urban public research university, currently enrolling more than 30,000 students. In 2011, IUPUI was ranked 3rd by U.S. News and World Report in “Up-and-Coming National Universities”. Indianapolis is a very livable city with a wealth of outdoor, cultural, and sporting activities. The department of Earth Sciences has a wide variety of analytical facilities including LGR and Picarro water isotope analyzers, IRMS facility, and wet chemistry laboratories equipped for soil, water and plant analysis.

If interested, please send a copy of your application materials (statement of interest, resume, unofficial transcripts, TOEFL score if applicable, and contact information of three referees) to Dr. Lixin Wang ([lxwang@iupui.edu](mailto:lxwang@iupui.edu)). Review of applications will start immediately and continue until the position is filled.