



NEWSLETTER

SINO-ECOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION OVERSEAS

中華海外生態學者協會



Cover Photo: Half Dome Yosemite National Park (Photo by Charlie Huang).



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Edited by Muyang Lu
www.sino-eco.org

Dear Sino-Eco members and friends,

As we enter September—a month of harvest and new beginnings—I know that many of you are busily engaged in the start of a new academic semester, new jobs, or new projects. Regardless of how busy you are, I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. I am delighted to present you with the September issue of the Sino-Ecologists Association Overseas (Sino-Eco) newsletter.

Over the past eight months, we've hosted a series of eight “Sino-Eco Talks,” featuring distinguished speakers from diverse academic backgrounds and career stages. I'd like to extend my gratitude to our esteemed speakers: Alexa McKay, Lianhong Gu, Jiliang Hu, Liang Ma, Xi Yang, Xinli Chen, Feng Tao, and Ying-Ping WANG. Additionally, I'd like to thank our dedicated Sino-Eco Executive Committee (EC) members—Lifei Wang, Lixin Wang, and Mingzhen Lu—for their exceptional organization of these events. Your continued support for future talks is highly valued, and we welcome any suggestions you may have.

One of Sino-Eco's cornerstone activities is our social gatherings, offering both new and long-standing members an invaluable opportunity to network with peers. This year, we hosted our 34th annual gathering on August 8th, 2023, alongside the Ecological Society of America (ESA) 108th Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon. The event attracted approximately 70 Chinese ecologists from various sectors globally. I'd like to extend a special thanks to our Advisory Committee members, senior members, and EC team for their invaluable contributions to the gathering's success. We plan to continue this tradition at the next ESA meeting, which will be held in Long Beach, California, in August 2024.

On behalf of the Sino-Eco EC, I'd like to congratulate our 2023 Best Student Paper Award recipients: Hengxing Zou from Rice University, Bo Yi from Iowa State University, and Feng Tao from Tsinghua University. I would also like to congratulate our 2023 Best Young Investigator Paper Award recipients: Dr. Xinli Chen from the University of Alberta and Dr. Jiliang Hu from MIT. The incredible achievements of our early-career members are truly commendable, and I want to thank all nominators and the awards committee for recognizing these talents. We'll continue to honor such excellence among the next generation of ecologists through our annual awards.

As you all know, Sino-Eco is a non-profit organization committed to promoting career development, fostering community, offering informal mentorship, and facilitating professional collaborations among Chinese and Chinese-origin ecologists overseas. We count on your continued support, not just through active participation in our events, but also by becoming a paid member and contributing donations. More detailed information about joining Sino-Eco and making contributions can be found on our website at <https://sino-eco.org/home-2/>.

As the Mid-Autumn Festival approaches, on behalf of the Sino-Eco EC, I want to thank you for your unwavering support and wish you a joyful festival and continued success. Please feel free to share this newsletter with your friends.

Regards,
Jiafu Mao

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2023 Sino-Eco Talks Highlights



2023 Feb 06

Demystifying the Nature journals

Dr. Alexa McKay



2023 Feb 23

Modernization of photosynthesis modeling and explanation of mysteries in higher plants

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfBIaduLebY>

Dr. Lianhong Gu



2023 Mar 15

Emergent phases of ecological diversity and dynamics in complex communities

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvjFDF7YsYA>

Dr. Jiliang Hu



2023 Apr 10

Evaluating species' vulnerability under climate change from a physiological perspective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TC2sr0gwS7Y>

Dr. Liang Ma

2023 Sino-Eco Talks Highlights



2023 May 16

From leaves to ecosystems: What can we learn about vegetation function and structure using novel remote sensing techniques

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AwA6pG_Cj4

Dr. Xi Yang



2023 Jun 13

Plant diversity effect on soil carbon and nutrient

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnEOIMLMuYU>

Dr. Xinli Chen



2023 Jul 10

Microbial carbon use efficiency promotes global soil carbon storage

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWzsk52OIJs>

Dr. Feng Tao



2023 Aug 21

Coupling of energy, water and carbon cycles on land: A retrospective and a prospective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBepPJBaWps>

Dr. Ying-Ping Wang



Sino-Eco Annual Gathering 2023 | Portland, Oregon, United States

Lifei Wang

Sino-Ecologists Association Overseas (Sino-Eco) holds an annual gathering concurrent with the Ecological Society of America (ESA) Annual Meeting that brings members and friends from around the world together. This year, Sino-Eco held the 34th annual gathering on August 8th, 2023 during the ESA 108th Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon, United States. Approximately 70 Chinese ecologists from universities, colleges, government agencies, and research organizations worldwide attended the gathering. Sino-Eco president Dr. Jiafu Mao, scholarship and award officer Dr. Lixin Wang, webinar coordinator Dr. Mingzhen Lu, and secretary Dr. Lifei Wang organized the gathering.

In the gathering, Dr. Jiafu Mao welcomed old and new friends to Sino-Eco. This year, Sino-Eco senior members Drs. Yiqi Luo, Jiquan Chen, Dafeng Hui, Adam (Xiaohua) Wei, Charlie Huang, Yonglong Lu, Wei Ren, Xiaofeng Xu, Kai Zhu, and Xi Yang attended the gathering, and over 30 new members joined Sino-Eco. During the three-hour gathering, senior members and early career ecologists enjoyed networking with peers in their field, connecting on both specific research topics and broader issues in work and life, discussing the diverse experiences of Chinese ecologists, and celebrating the research done by Sino-Eco members in the field. Dr. Lixin Wang announced the three recipients of Sino-Eco 2023 Best Student Paper Award: Hengxing Zou from Rice University in Texas, United States, Bo Yi from Iowa State University in Iowa, United States, and Feng Tao from Tsinghua University in Beijing, China; and the two recipients of Sino-Eco 2023 Best Young Investigator Paper Award: Dr. Xinli Chen from the University of Alberta in Alberta, Canada, and Dr. Jiliang Hu from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Massachusetts, United States.

Sino-Eco is a non-profit organization founded in 1989 and dedicated to promote career development, build community, provide opportunities for informal mentoring and support, and facilitate professional collaborations for Chinese ecologists. Membership has grown through member networking and includes graduate students, professionals in a range of ecological fields, scientists working in federal and state governments, post-docs, junior and senior academic faculty and scientists. Our next annual gathering will be held in Long Beach, California, United States in August 2024. We encourage you to spread the word to your friends and colleagues and look forward to seeing more Chinese ecologists worldwide be involved with Sino-Eco.

2023 Sino-Eco Best Paper Award



Dr. Lixin Wang announced the three recipients of Sino-Eco 2023 Best Student Paper Award: **Hengxing Zou** from Rice University in Texas, United States, **Bo Yi** from Iowa State University in Iowa, United States, and **Feng Tao** from Tsinghua University in Beijing, China;.

Photo: Bo Yi (middle) receiving the best student paper award from Dr. Lixin Wang (left) and Dr. Jiafu Mao (right)

Yi, B., Lu, C., Huang, W., Yu, W., Yang, J., Howe, A., et al. (2023). Resolving the influence of lignin on soil organic matter decomposition with mechanistic models and continental-scale data. *Global Change Biology*, n/a. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/gcb.16875>

Zou, H.-X. & Rudolf, V.H.W. (2023). Priority Effects Determine How Dispersal Affects Biodiversity in Seasonal Metacommunities. *The American Naturalist*, 202, 140–151. <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/725039>

Tao, F., Huang, Y., Hungate, B.A., Manzoni, S., Frey, S.D., Schmidt, M.W.I., et al. (2023). Microbial carbon use efficiency promotes global soil carbon storage. *Nature*, 618, 981–985. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-06042-3>

2023 Sino-Eco Best Young Investigator Paper Award

The two recipients of Sino-Eco 2023 Best Young Investigator Paper Award: Dr. **Xinli Chen** from the University of Alberta in Alberta, Canada, and Dr. **Jiliang Hu** from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Massachusetts, United States.

Photo: Dr. Xinli Chen receiving the best young investigator award from Dr. Lixin Wang and Dr. Jiafu Mao.



Chen, X., Taylor, A.R., Reich, P.B., Hisano, M., Chen, H.Y.H. & Chang, S.X. (2023). Tree diversity increases decadal forest soil carbon and nitrogen accrual. *Nature*, 618, 94–101. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-05941-9>

Hu, J., Amor, D.R., Barbier, M., Bunin, G. & Gore, J. (2022). Emergent phases of ecological diversity and dynamics mapped in microcosms. *Science*, 378, 85–89. <https://www.science.org/doi/full/10.1126/science.abm7841>

Job opportunities



Dr. Lin Meng at Vanderbilt University is seeking a postdoc to work on a NASA project on modeling forest edge effects on carbon cycle and fires in Amazon using FATES. Apply here: <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/postdoc/position-detail/?id=755>



The Institute of Global Change Biology (IGCB) at the University of Michigan is seeking another round of exceptional applicants for the IGCB Michigan Postdoctoral Fellows Program. The application deadline is September 30 2023. We hope to make decisions by October 25. Successful applicants would be able to start their appointment as soon as feasible after a decision has been reached, but preferably not later than June 30, 2024 (although we can be flexible as needed). Applications must include: (1) A cover letter (1 page); (2) a CV; (3) a research statement including plans for proposed research and anticipated mentors at the University of Michigan (3 pages maximum), including a short paragraph describing how the applicant's research would fit in with and contribute to the IGCB Research Themes, (4) a brief statement describing interest in, experience with, and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusivity (1 page); (5) names and contact information for three references; please ask all three to upload their letters here. Combine all parts of the application into a single PDF and upload the file in the application form here. Contact the IGCB Program Manager (Sarah Raubenheimer; sraubs@umich.edu) with any questions.

UCLA

Dr. Chuliang Song is looking for 1-2 PhD students who are passionate about ecology with a strong quantitative background to join his lab in UCLA, starting in the summer of 2024. The lab accepts students through the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at UCLA. The deadline for application is December 1st. More info about the lab (<https://www.clsong.com/>)
More information about the program can be found on this page (www.eeb.ucla.edu/doctoral-program/).



Dr. Mingzhen Lu is recruiting two postdocs to join the lab in New York University in fall 2023 or spring 2024. The selected individual will be expected to develop investigations under one or more broader themes of interest, consisting of: 1) Linking plant traits with global biogeochemistry; 2) Understanding vegetation regime shifts and their belowground drivers 3) Bridging ecosystem ecology with urban sciences. More info: <https://apply.interfolio.com/127698>



Dr. Jiafu Mao is seeking a Postdoctoral Research Associate who will support the Earth Systems Modeling Group in the Environmental Sciences Division (ESD), Biological and Environmental Systems Science Directorate (BESS) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to refine wildfire parameterizations in Earth system models, create constrained forecasts of future wildfire events, and assess both the probability and potential ramifications of wildfires on the US power systems to lay the foundation for effective risk mitigation strategies. More info: <https://jobs.ornl.gov/job/Oak-Ridge-Postdoctoral-Research-Associate-Wildfire-Modeling%2C-Projection%2C-and-Risk-Evaluation-TN-37830/1076182700/>

Getting in touch with Sino-Eco!

Sino-Eco is active on many social media platforms. Get in touch with us and stay up to date on the latest activities from Sino-Eco!

Support Sino-Eco by joining/rejoining as a member:

<http://www.sino-eco.org/>

Subscribe Sino-Eco YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc780ROibI8VO3AAnjmbqzA>

Follow Sino-Eco on WeChat:

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/yI7tERGwb9Lu1hIjxLs47A>

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Join Sino-Eco Slack workspace:

https://join.slack.com/t/sino-eco-association/shared_invite/zt-rmf9tzgw-TEgaD~9b5Qbb13Gbm3f3OZA