

Newsletter, March 2025



SORTEE

Society for Open, Reliable, and Transparent
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Website: <https://www.sortee.org/>

Twitter/X: [@sortecoevo](https://twitter.com/sortecoevo)

Mastodon: [@sortee@ecoevo.social](https://mastodon.social/@sortee)

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/sortee.bsky.social>

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/sortee/

Slack: <https://sortee.slack.com/>

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Leadership openings at SORTEE

1. SORTEE needs a treasurer

This is an exciting opportunity to join the core leadership of the SORTEE organization. Our wonderful treasurer, Alexa Fredston, is stepping down at the end of 2025, and we're looking for a volunteer to step into that role. Although we will not need a new treasurer for nine months, we hope to receive nominations by May 1st to facilitate the transition. We therefore encourage you to start thinking about volunteering now and reach out to SORTEE leadership soon (see below). Unfortunately, because we are a US-based organization and do our banking in the US, the treasurer must be based in the US, and ideally would be a US citizen. Because of the responsibilities associated with this role, we will prioritize candidates who are willing to commit to a minimum of two years in the position. The volunteer treasurer must be approved by the board of directors after which they automatically become an officer and a member of the executive committee.

If you are interested in this responsibility, we encourage you to reach out to the president, secretary, or current treasurer, Alexa Fredston, directly (treasurer.sortee@gmail.com or fredston@ucsc.edu). Says Alexa, "I'm happy to chat with people on slack, zoom, whatsapp, etc., or however else is helpful. No questions are too small and absolutely no hard feelings if it isn't for you."

Alexa also noted that volunteering as a treasurer is readily understood as important service by others outside of SORTEE "because everyone knows what a Treasurer is, so many employers and colleagues understand the significant contribution you would be making."

2. Manage in-person socials

The Member Engagement committee is still one person short this year. We are looking for someone to support in-person SORTEE meet-ups at the conferences of other societies in ecology and evolutionary biology (see here: <https://www.sortee.org/meet-ups/>).

***Task description*:** The In-person Socials Manager promotes and tracks SORTEE in-person meet-ups, supplies materials (e.g. SORTEE poster, stickers, t-shirts, some funds for buying food and drinks) to meet-up hosts, and helps hosts plan and promote the meet-up.

Why volunteer? This is an opportunity to interact with colleagues to promote SORTEE, experience SORTEE behind the scenes, and get to know and work with fellow SORTEE members! If you have questions, feel free to contact current board member Matthieu Paquet, who was In-person Socials manager in 2024.

3. Become a website editor

We are building a team of website editors. If you think you might be available to edit the website, we'd love to hear from you. The time commitment is generally modest (on the order of one or two hours per month) - it usually involves posting blogs, news, and updating contents of the web pages, as needed. The website content is in RMarkdown and is edited on GitHub, then automatically deployed as a GitPage via Netlify. Please contact Media Committee chair Tim Parker (parkerth@whitman.edu) if you are interested in volunteering for this role!

SORTEE Conference 2025 - save the date

The fifth annual [SORTEE Conference](#) will be held virtually in October 2025 (continuously from October 15th to October 16th, to cover all timezones). The conference will be **FREE** for SORTEE members, and ranging from 0\$ to 60\$ for non-SORTEE members.

The conference is a forum to **discuss** and **develop ideas**, while also exploring **current practices** for advancing research in fields related to ecology and evolutionary biology.

The conference will be a mix of 5 session types:

- **Unconferences:** Facilitated discussions of ideas for how to make ecology, evolutionary biology, and related disciplines more open, reliable, and transparent.

- **Hackathons:** Group projects with well-defined goals (papers, techniques, software, protocols, organizations, etc.).
- **Workshops:** Facilitators will teach tools to implement open, reliable, and transparent practices.
- **Plenaries:** Two plenaries about recent initiatives in open science.
- **Introductions to open science:** Two sessions dedicated to people new to open science.

To want an idea of what a SORTEE conference looks like, check the 2024 SORTEE conference program [here](#) and the summary of previous conferences at <https://www.sortee.org/past>.

Content submissions will soon open on [this page](#)

To have a great conference, we need great events and facilitators! We invite anyone interested in facilitating an unconference, a hackathon or a workshop to submit their content. You don't have to be a SORTEE member.

Click [here](#) if you want to be added to the mailing list and receive conference updates.

We are trying our best to make this conference as inclusive as possible. We encourage individuals with questions regarding accessibility when facilitating a session or attending the conference to reach out to us at conference@sortee.org.

SORTEE at in-person conferences

If you're attending a conference we can support you to present a SORTEE poster and/or organise a meetup with other people interested in open science; see <https://www.sortee.org/meet-ups/> for more information, and submit an expression of interest [here](#).

And if you want to organize a more substantial event focussed on open/reliable/transparent science, either at an existing conference or as a stand-alone event, we can help you seek funding. Several external grants exist to organise SORTEE-related in-person meetings, workshops, conferences, etc. If you

are interested in organising such events, please get in touch with the fundraising committee (matthieu.paquet@outlook.com). We will help you identify and apply for a grant suitable for you!

Workshop and Webinar series

SORTEE's Workshop & Webinar series has already kicked off for 2025, with our first two sessions including Rachel Meyer's webinar on the [CALeDNA](#) platform in January and Andrew Quitmeyer's talk on the [Mothbox](#) insect monitoring tool last month. Next up is SORTEE's own Ed Ivimey-Cook with our first workshop of the year: **"Reproducible Data Analysis in R"** on **March 27 9:00 UTC**. In this interactive workshop Ed will introduce the basics of reproducible project structure, data, and code, as well as the basics of conducting a code review. To attend, please register [here](#).

We'd love to hear more from SORTEE members on what topics you'd like to see as we fill out our schedule for the rest of 2025! If you have an idea for a potential [topic](#) or an interesting [speaker](#), please feel free to submit a request to the Education and Outreach committee with the links provided.

Join the next Virtual Social: April 1st

SORTEE Virtual Social April 2025: Open Science Against Humanity

Get ready for fun and laughs with our upcoming virtual social event: Open Science Against Humanity! It's a twist on the classic Cards Against Humanity game, with an open science theme.

This will be a fantastic opportunity to unwind, connect with your peers, and share a few laughs, all while exploring the lighter side of open science.



-- Tuesday April 1st --



8:00 - 8:30h UTC ([convert to local time](#))



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81373287647?pwd=kjXj1TCSSiTbkuUKLlan2txb3kpNP0.1>

To receive calendar invites in your local time zone, [sign up here](#).

Join the #brazil-chapter Slack channel

In an effort to grow SORTEE's grass-roots movement, this year we are trying something new and have started our first local chapter. This will be an exercise to increase the ORTEE conversation at a local scale, understanding local challenges, and leveraging what is already working well. We are starting with Brazil, so if you are Brazilian or sympathize with the cause: **Come to #brazil-chapter!**

How to join: come to the new Slack channel by following [this link](#) or go to SORTEE's Slack space, click 'Add channels' -> 'browse channels', then type '#brazil-chapter' and click 'Join'

SORTEE Commendation Awards

The SORTEE Commendation Awards aim to highlight projects that align with the aims and values of the society. A project is defined as any work that is an initiative benefiting the eco-evo community by fostering open science values or practices (e.g., journal clubs, workshops, seminar series, websites, repositories, tools, educational materials, public talks, podcasts, etc.). The SORTEE Commendation Awards recognise that projects are often team efforts. As such, the contributions of all project members, rather than individuals, will be highlighted. SORTEE warmly encourages diverse nominations in terms of team membership. Project nominations can be submitted year-round until two months before the SORTEE conference. For further information see the [SORTEE awards website](#).

EcoEvoRxiv updates

EcoEvoRxiv now has 2111 preprints, and our new paper describing "The promise of community-driven preprints in ecology and evolution" is now published (Noble et al. 2025. journal: <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2024.1487>, EcoEvoRxiv: <https://doi.org/10.32942/X2SS46>). This paper describes our progress to date and sets out ideas for the future. The authors of that paper include members of the EcoEvoRxiv Committee as well as many other SORTEE members.

Our new EcoEvoRxiv editors for 2025 are also now on-boarded! Welcome to Niky Wu, Nilandri Mondal, and Mark Young. We'll be kicking off our new non-English manuscript acceptance process in the coming months which will see a huge increase in the number of languages we accept. Thanks to all the many SORTEE volunteers who put up their hand to help with this process.

Behind the scenes, things are looking good for the infrastructure supporting EcoEvoRxiv. The team we work with at California Digital Library (CDL), which hosts EcoEvoRxiv, envisage continued funding into the foreseeable future despite the general funding uncertainty in the US. In addition, we are expecting updates soon to the online publishing platform used by CDL, Janeway. Janeway 1.8 should be released next month, and the new system will incorporate better checkpoints to make sure authors have uploaded correct meta-data and it will have updated metrics data for each preprint as well as a feature that allows us to export these metrics. However, we're still working with the CDL to push Janeway to add additional features so that authors can do meta-data corrections themselves, as this is a common issue that needs to be dealt with manually by EcoEvoRxiv editors.

SORTEE supporters in 2025

Multiple organizations have renewed their support to SORTEE in 2025: the American Society of Naturalists ([ASN](#)), Canadian Science Publishing ([CSP](#)), [Dryad](#), Peer Community In ([PCI](#)), the [Royal Society](#), and the Society for the Study of Evolution ([SSE](#)). Their generous support helps sustain SORTEE's core activities and services, including SORTEE's [annual conference](#), our [Workshop & Webinar](#) Series, [EcoEvoRxiv](#), and [meet-ups](#) at in-person conferences. Check out the SORTEE supporters webpage [here](#) and please get in touch (sortecoevo@gmail.com) if you or an organization you work with would like to support SORTEE!

Add links to sortee.org on your website

If you have a website, please consider adding a link to sortee.org. The more websites that link to sortee.org, the higher our search engine rankings will be. This will help people searching on Google or other search engines find us more readily. Thanks!

Write a blog post

Do you have ideas about open, reliable, or transparent practices in ecology, evolutionary biology, or related disciplines? Do you have experiences with open, reliable, or transparent science that you'd like to share? Have you recently published a paper on these issues that you want to call attention to? SORTEE has a blog, and we welcome submissions from our members. We'd love to hear from you if you have an idea for a post. Please email us at sortee.media@gmail.com

Submit to the SORTEE Newsletter

We welcome submissions to our newsletter. If you know of anything that SORTEE should or could announce (events, publications, announcements, ideas) in our newsletter, please let us know by sending an email to sortee.media@gmail.com (We do not advertise commercial services or products)

2025 SORTEE leadership team

Ed Ivimey-Cook (President, Board Member)

Kaija Gahm (Secretary)

Alexa Fredston (Treasurer)

Rose O'Dea (Past-President)

Marija Purgar (Board Member, President-elect)

Malgorzata (Losia) Lagisz (Board Member)

Matthieu Paquet (Board Member, Fundraising Committee Chair)

Patrice Pottier (Board Member)

Alfredo Sánchez-Tójar (Board Member)

Michael Bertram (Board Member)

Stephanie Flaman (Board Member)

Joel Pick (Advocacy Committee Chair)

Hannah Dugdale (Awards Committee Chair)

Juliette Tariel-Adam (Conference Committee Chair)

Brooke Long-Fox and Friederike (Freddy) Hilleman (DEI Committee Chairs)

Daniel Noble and Stefan Vriend (EcoEvoRxiv Committee Chairs)

Saoirse Kelleher (Education and Outreach Chair)

Tim Parker (Media Committee Chair)

Natalie van Dis (Member Engagement Committee Chair)