Newsletter, June 2025

Website: https://www.sortee.org/
Twitter/X: @sortecoevo
Mastodon:@sortee@ecoevo.social
Bluesky: https://bsky.app/profile/sortee.bsky.social
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/sortee/
Slack: https://sortee.slack.com/

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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 now 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."

SORTEE Conference 2025 - registration open

The **fifth annual SORTEE conference** will run continuously from **15 October 07:00 UTC to 16 October 10:00 UTC** to cover all time zones.

Conference registration is now OPEN! Register here: https://events.humanitix.com/sortee-conference-2025

Registration is free for SORTEE members.

To join the mailing list and receive conference updates, click here. We send approximately 8 emails per year with important updates.

Please help us spread the word by inviting your colleagues!

Conference content submission is now closed and we are working on delivering a fantastic program filled with exciting interactive events (unconferences, hackathons, workshops, plenaries and introductions to open science).

The program will be published soon on the SORTEE webpage, so keep an eye out for updates.

We are pleased to announce the 2025 plenary presenters and their talks:
   1) **Prof. Simine Vazire: ''Journal Prestige Can and Should be Earned''**
   2) **Dr. Israel Borokini: TBA**

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the conference, please write to us at conference@sortee.org. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions regarding accessibility.

See you in October!
The SORTEE Conference Committee

SORTEE at in-person conferences

Conference season is starting! Going to an eco-evo conference in the coming months? Then take this opportunity to meet SORTEE members in person.

The meetup can be as casual and informal as you wish, with members only, or if you're up for it, you can organize a bigger meetup, inviting potential new SORTEE members to the mix 🎨. In any case, **we ask you to sign up to host your in-person meetup plan (link below).** The Member Engagement committee will then be in touch to support your meetup and will add it to the list of upcoming events.

✍️ **Sign up form for SORTEE in person meetups**
👉You can find all planned SORTEE in-person meet-ups at upcoming eco-evo conferences here.
ℹ️ Find more information about in person meetups on the website.

❗️🔎 *The Member Engagement is still looking for a volunteer to help with in person meet-up support. Want to help out? Send a message to chair Natalie van Dis (natalie.vandis@helsinki.fi).*

Support to organise events

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 that could be suitable for you!

SORTEE is on Bluesky

For those of you on Bluesky, don't forget to follow SORTEE https://bsky.app/profile/sortee.bsky.social

Join the next SORTEE virtual social on July 1st

Our next Virtual Social will be on July 1st at 15:00 UTC

Topic: How to DEI today? Meet SORTEE's DEI committee!

In this Virtual Social, DEI committee chairs Brooke Long-Fox and Freddy Hillemann will introduce themselves and their SORTEE roles, followed by an open and informal discussion on how to DEI in the context of (Open) Science in these turbulent times. All feel welcome to come listen and share your thoughts!

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

SORTEE Speaker network and Resource repository

The Education & Outreach committee is commencing two new initiatives to support and showcase SORTEE members who are actively engaged in advancing open and transparent science, and to promote the work and mission of SORTEE more broadly. As a first step, we are accepting preliminary submissions for the initiatives below:

- **Speaker network:** We're building a space where SORTEE members can be featured as potential speakers or workshop leaders on topics aligned with SORTEE principles, such as reproducibility, code review, open peer review, and FAIR data. If you are interested in being included, please fill out this form & we'll be in touch with the next steps.
- **Resource repository:** We are also working on a repository of shared educational materials related to the aims and principles of SORTEE. This includes workshops, training modules, and other resources that members are willing to share, as well as a curated list of open, existing materials that others have found useful. The goal is to enable broader reuse and local delivery of training, whether through self-paced learning or institutional workshops. If you have materials you'd be willing to contribute, please fill out this form.

SORTEE Code Club back in September

The SORTEE Code Club will have a mid-year break for 2 months in July and August. Code Club sessions will resume again from the **16th of September** onwards (see Code Club schedule and sign up for calendar invites).

We hope to see you again then! :)

- Ceci & Corné

Workshop and webinar series

SORTEE's workshop and webinar series presents virtual sessions on topics of interest to the open science community, both within our society and beyond. We're always looking for ideas for future editions – if you have a topic you'd like to learn more about, a speaker we should consider inviting, or even a session you'd like to run yourself, please fill out the appropriate form below:

- [Request a workshop/webinar on a specific topic](#)
- [Propose a workshop or webinar](#)

From the SORTEE DEI committee

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are fundamental to robust, innovative, and high-quality science: diverse teams bring a range of expertise, equitable access ensures talent isn't lost, and inclusivity fosters collaboration across perspectives, disciplines, and communities. Our role as the SORTEE DEI Committee is to provide constructive feedback and foster collaborative learning and engagement with DEI issues—key to ensuring SORTEE remains a truly welcoming and respectful community, as outlined in our society's Code of Conduct.

Members of the DEI Committee are involved in activities across SORTEE. Current work includes providing input to the Conference Organising Committee, revising the Board of Directors application process, and improving cross-committee communication and collaboration.

The committee co-chairs would like to take this opportunity to thank our committee members for their contributions and to acknowledge the other committee chairs who invite our perspective—we appreciate it!

Got input, concerns, or suggestions? Please reach out, and consider joining the committee—we'd love to have you!

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!

SORTEE Commendation Awards

Do you have a project that exemplifies open science in ecology and evolution? If so nominate the project for a SORTEE Commendation Award

The SORTEE Commendation Awards aim to highlight projects that align with the aims and values of 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](#).

SORTEE supporters in 2025

Good news from the Fundraising Committee team! SORTEE received Funding for Innovations in Sustainable Conferencing from the Company of Biologists. Check out the SORTEE supporters webpage [here](#) and please get in touch (sortecoevo@gmail.com) if you or an organization you know would like to support SORTEE!

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

Notices from outside SORTEE

MorphoBank (www.morphobank.org) is hosting its first virtual conference!

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You're invited to **MorphoBank Connects 2025!** A **FREE** virtual conference on **September 18 and 19, 2025**. This event will highlight innovative ways to leverage MorphoBank, an open-access repository and collaborative workspace for morphological character matrices, to advance Open Science and FAIR data practices. Activities include a curation workshop, data mining hackathon, user community forum, project support office hours, and invited and submitted presentations.

We invite presentations that share how MorphoBank can serve as a central database, collaborative workspace, and secure repository to drive forward Open Science and FAIR data principles. Submissions might include:

- Novel Research Applications: Case studies that leverage morphological character matrices for evolutionary analyses, ecological modeling, or biodiversity assessments.
- Advanced Workflows & Tools: Descriptions of pipelines or scripts that integrate MorphoBank data with other platforms (e.g., R, Python, GIS) to automate curation, visualization, or statistical analyses.
- Non-Traditional Uses: Innovative uses of MorphoBank beyond classical character scoring such as geometric morphometrics, histological image annotations, 3D model integration, or outreach-focused teaching modules.
- Community Engagement & FAIR Best Practices: Reports on collaborative projects, community-driven hackathons, metadata standardization efforts, or strategies for enhancing data reusability and reproducibility.

✍️ Submit a **250-word abstract** (no refs/images/tables) that includes title, authors names, affiliations, and ORCID IDs, and 4-6 keywords.

📅 The abstract submission **deadline is July 24, 2025.**

⏰ Accepted presentations will be scheduled as **15-minute talks** followed by 5 minutes of Q&A in **20-minute** slots. All talks will be recorded and (if you opt in) posted to our YouTube channel after the conference for broader reach and future reference.

🔗 Submit your abstract and learn more at https://phoenixbioinformatics.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/MD/pages/378208260/MorphoBank+Connects+2025

❓ For questions, please contact **conference@morphobank.org**

We look forward to your contributions and to showcasing the diverse potential of MorphoBank as a morphological repository!

Lifecycle Journal - a new scholarly communication format from the Center for Open Science

Lifecycle Journal is a new model of scholarly communication launched by the [Center for Open Science (COS)](#) in early 2025. Designed to enhance transparency and trust in research, Lifecycle Journal is a 3-year pilot exploring a community-driven model of publishing and evaluation. *Lifecycle Journal* supports open science throughout the research lifecycle, enabling research outputs to be shared, published, and evaluated at all stages. It uses a 'publish-before-review' model where research is published before undergoing evaluation, enabling control by the scholarly community itself.
Community-led evaluation beyond traditional peer review from distributed human and machine-based evaluation service partners provides an opportunity for innovators and evaluators to try, evaluate, and improve new methods of review. *Lifecycle Journal* is now open for submissions. Join us in shaping the future of open science. Guidelines and link to submit: [lifecyclejournal.org](#)

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)