



AQUACOSM-plus Early Career Researcher Network Newsletter

Hello everyone ✨

We are excited to share the latest updates from the AQUACOSM-plus ECR Network, including recent activities, upcoming plans, and opportunities for our ECR community.

Announcements

- ❖ **Website launch:** We are excited to share that the AQUACOSM-plus ECR Network now has its own website. You can find us on <https://aquacosm-ecr.github.io/>. This will be a space to share updates, events, opportunities, and activities from our network.
- ❖ **Welcome to our new core team member:** **Gizem Oğuz** 🎉👋



Hi, I am Gizem Oğuz, a PhD student and Junior Research Fellow at the Estonian University of Life Sciences. My research focuses on nitrogen cycling in the water columns of lakes. I am interested in understanding how these processes influence lake ecosystem functioning and water quality. I look forward to collaborating with fellow early-career researchers and contributing to environmental research.



- ❖ **AQ+ Statistics Circle has been launched:** We are happy to announce that the AQ+ Statistics Circle has been successfully launched in April, 2026. The circle is a discussion-based space where ECRs can exchange ideas, ask questions, and learn from each other around statistical methods used in aquatic ecology and related fields.

Sarah Hasnain and **Federico Kerdmann Iribarne** are currently running a free 10-session course on **Introduction to Bayesian modelling**, which also offers a certificate of completion for interested ECRs. We are planning more workshops, courses, and statistics clinics in the future, so stay tuned!

- ❖ We are working on new ways to share our activities, highlight our community, and make it easier for ECRs to stay connected. **Something new is coming 📷: stay tuned!**

Upcoming ECR opportunities and events

- **ECR Talk: Ecosystem Modelling Discussion**  23 July 2026 |  14:30 - 15:30 CET
Join us for our next ECR talk, where we will dive into ecosystem modelling through two exciting presentations. This session will bring together different modelling approaches and aquatic systems, from invasive mussels in lakes to oxygen dynamics in the Levantine Sea.
 - **Dr Jonas Mauch:** *Mussels can't beat the heat: A digital invasion of quagga mussels into the process-based lake ecosystem model PCLake+*
 - **Dr Joelle Habib:** *Dissolved oxygen budget in the Levantine Sea: A coupled physical-biogeochemical modelling approach*

You can register for the event here: <https://forms.gle/ATxQeAqipqjEhZUG8>

- **Meet Us at the XX Congresso Brasileiro de Limnologia**  20–24 July 2026 | 
Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora, Juiz de Fora, MG, Brazil

The AQUACOSM-plus ECR Network will also be represented at the congress. Our poster, “Advancing Experimental Aquatic Ecology Through the AQUACOSM ECR Network,” will be presented there. If you are attending, make sure to stop by and meet our core team member **Cihelio Amorim!**

- **More events are coming in the next few months**  

We are preparing two upcoming activities for the ECR community: a new event focused on **Mentoring in Science** and the return of our **ToolBox** series. The mentoring event will offer space to discuss career development, scientific guidance, and the role of

mentoring for ECRs, while ToolBox will continue sharing useful tools, methods, and resources for ecology and aquatic research. Stay connected for more details.

Research infrastructure and networks

SEFAP: Mesocosm facilities in the Netherlands

We would like to highlight SEFAP (SMART Experimental Facilities for Aquatic Processes) - a network connecting aquatic mesocosm facilities across the Netherlands. The facilities range from controlled indoor systems to naturally colonized ditches. The network aims to support collaboration, open science, equipment sharing, and access to experimental mesocosms.



Early-career researchers can also benefit from preferential access and training opportunities. Those interested in learning more about the facilities or possible access can visit the [SEFAP website](https://sefap.nioo.knaw.nl) or contact the team at sefap@nioo.knaw.nl.

Past Events

Coffee Chats

Our informal coffee chats continued over the past months, creating a relaxed space for ECRs to connect, exchange experiences, and discuss research across aquatic sciences.

Recent coffee chat topics included:

- Mesocosm successes and failures by [Max Lambrecht](#)
- Fisherfolk's perception of climate change impacts on fisheries and adaptation strategies, by [Faith Oyewale Olabisi](#), based on field work carried out by the Coastal Ocean Environment Summer School in Nigeria and Ghana

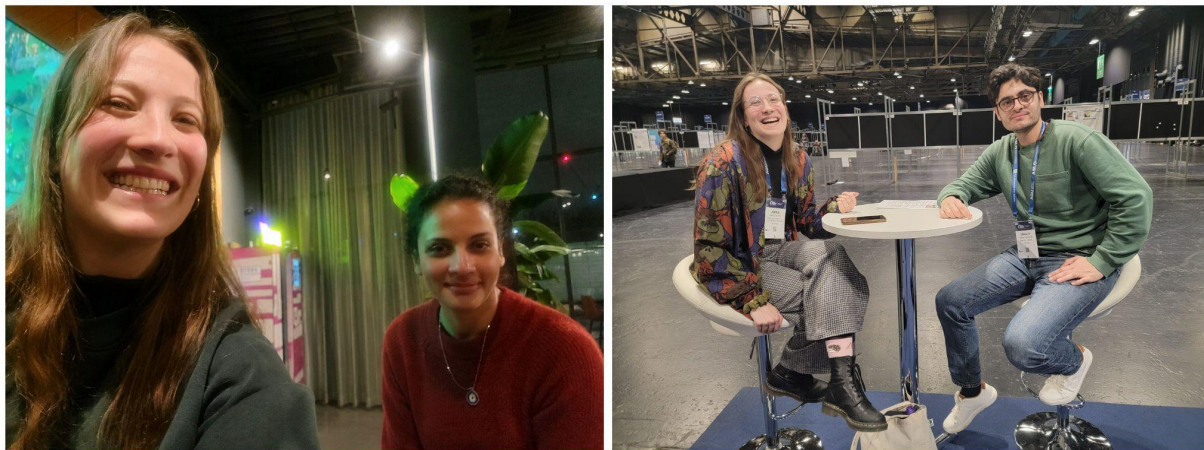
Join our informal coffee chats with a beverage of your choice and connect virtually with other like-minded ECRs once a month. Dates are announced on our [Discord channel](#), so be sure to join to stay updated and connect with fellow ECRs.

AQ+ Futuring Session 17 **11 February 2026**

We held an AQ+ Futuring Session to collect ideas, suggestions, and feedback from the community. The session focused on how members can participate more actively in the network and what activities could be useful for ECRs in the future.

   We value community input, so if you have ideas for future events, discussions, or collaborations, please contact **Kati Patonai** (katalin.patonai@umontreal.ca) or **Cihelio Amorim** (cihelio.amorim@wcl.ac.at).   

AQUACOSM-ECR Network at Ocean Sciences Meeting 17 **22-27 Feb 2026** **Glasgow, Scotland**



Members of our core team were present at OSM 2026 at Glasgow! **Sarah Hasnain** and **Anika Happe** held a social meetup with current ECR members, connected with other marine-based ECR groups and had a great time!

AQUACOSM-ECR Network at ASLO-SIL Joint Meeting 2026 17 **12-16 May 2026** **Montréal, Canada**

Our team was also present at the **ASLO-SIL Joint Meeting 2026** meeting, where we had the chance to meet and connect with other researchers and ECR communities. The network was represented by **Katalin Patonai**, our core team member, with her talk “**AQUACOSM-ECR Network: Connecting Aquatic Mesocosm Early Career Researchers Globally.**”



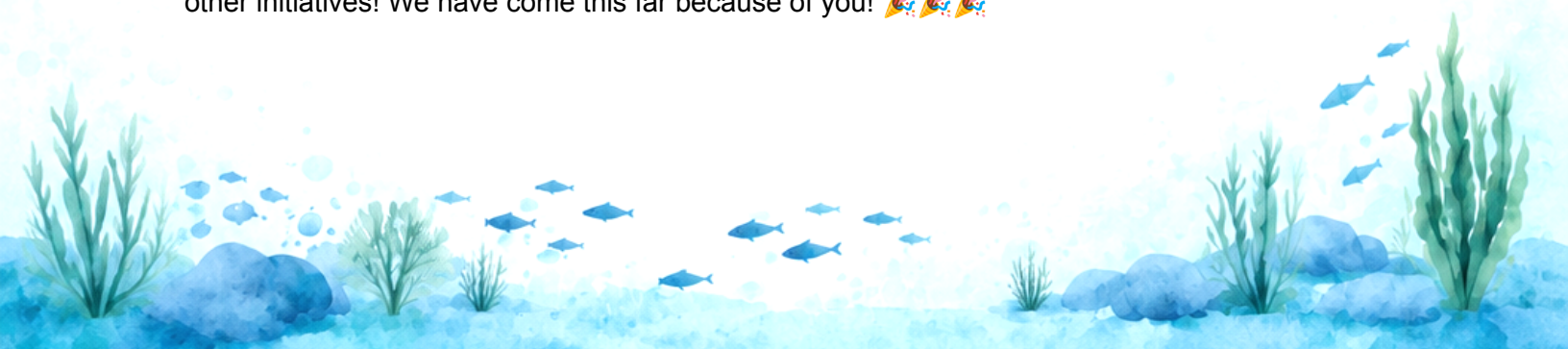
The talk introduced the network's aims, working groups, and opportunities for ECR involvement. It also highlighted our efforts to support knowledge transfer, collaboration, and leadership among aquatic mesocosm early-career researchers, as well as our interest in working together with other ECR groups.

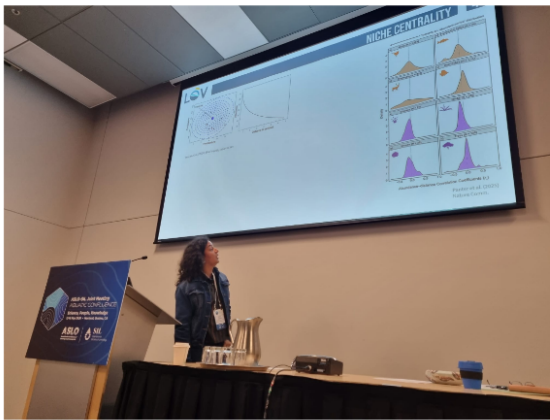


The [Mesocosm session at the ASLO-SIL 2026](#) conference, facilitated by the core team and organized by [Cihelio Alves Amorim](#), [Maja Ilić](#), [Anna Schmidt](#), [Gabriela Ágreda-López](#), and [Gülce Yalcin](#), was a great success!. A total of 18 oral and seven poster presentations, along with several others in other sessions, showcased the latest advances in mesocosm research! We thank all speakers for their great talks.

In addition, [Sarah Hasnain](#) and [Cihelio Amorim](#) represented AQUACOSM ECRs as part of a workshop entitled **“Towards a cross-organizational early-career aquatic science alliance”** organized by [Dr. Bruno Cremella](#), alongside representatives from the Global Lakes Ecological Observatory Network, ASLO, SIL and European Federation for Freshwater Sciences.

🎉🎉🎉 We are excited that the AQUACOSM-plus ECR community is receiving formal recognition within broader aquatic sciences. Thanks to all of our members for building this community by participating in online and in-person events, posting on Discord and developing other initiatives! We have come this far because of you! 🎉🎉🎉





 **Talk by Dr Sierra Cagle**  **26 June 2026**

Dr Sierra Cagle presented her work online on “Use of a phytoplankton r/k trait-gradient in aquatic ecosystem modeling: A generalized approach to increase representation of functional diversity.” If you would like access to a recording of this talk, please email Cihelio Amorim: cihelio.alves-amorim@donau-uni.ac.at



Collaboration Call: High-altitude Reservoir Biogeochemistry in Peru

Anthony Salazar from **Universidad Continental, Peru** is looking for one or two potential co-authors for a small research article or report using raw data from high-altitude reservoir systems in Peru. The project aims to explore relationships among iron (Fe), total phosphorus (TP), and total nitrogen (TN) to better understand geodynamics and biogeochemical processes in these systems.

The project is at an early stage and will be developed from scratch, including data exploration, hypothesis development, statistical analyses, interpretation, and writing. The research direction is open for discussion and refinement.

If you are interested in this collaboration, please contact Anthony at gsalazart@continental.edu.pe.



Conferences and Workshops



SIXTH Joint “Hacking Limnology” Workshop Series and Virtual Summit



Workshop dates: 10–12 August 2026



Virtual summit dates: 13–14 August 2026



Format: Online via Zoom

The SIXTH joint “Hacking Limnology” Workshop Series and the **“Virtual Summit: Incorporating Data Science and Open Science in Aquatic Research”** will take place online in August. Registration is free and open to everyone until **8 August**. You can [register here](#) and find [more information here](#).



SORTEE Conference 2026



Date: 13 October, 07:00 UTC – 14 October, 10:00 UTC



Format: Virtual and worldwide

The **SORTEE Conference 2026** will run continuously to make it accessible across time zones. Registration is now open, and the conference is free for members. [More information](#).



British Ecological Society Events 2026

The British Ecological Society has announced several upcoming events for 2026:



- **Climate Change and Ecosystem Dynamics**

 **Date:** 10–11 September 2026

 **Location:** Plymouth

Abstract submission closes on **31 July 2026**. More information is available [here](#).

- **BESAG2026: Aquatic Ecology Group Annual Meeting**

 **Date:** 3–4 September 2026

 **Location:** London

Registration closes on **1 August 2026**. More information is available [here](#).

- **BES Annual Meeting 2026**

 **Date:** 14–17 December 2026

 **Location:** Birmingham

More information is available [here](#).

XII International Shallow Lakes Conference 2026

 **Date:** 4-9 October 2026

 **Location:** Buenos Aires, Argentina

Abstract deadlines: Oral - 14 August 2026; Poster - 21 September 2026. More information is available [here](#).

New reads from our ECRs

Some recent publications and reads from our ECR community. Click the titles to read more:

- **Bo et al. (2026)** - [Bridging the Laboratory–Field Divide: Challenges and Opportunities in the ALPSTREAM Eco-Hydraulic Experimental Outdoor Mesocosm](#)
- **Marino et al. (2025)** - [Experimental droughts in mesocosms reveal a gradient of tolerance in Alpine stream macroinvertebrates](#)
- **Nicoară et al., (2026)** - [Warming and acidification alter essential fatty acid profiles in marine diatom *Skeletonema marinoi*](#)
- **Schneider et al. (2026)** - [Carbon fixation of a temperate plankton community in response to calcium- and silicate-based Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement using air-sea gas exchange measurements](#)
- **Rani et al. (2026)** - [Temperature-driven diet shift in an invasive omnivorous crustacean feeding on plankton](#)
- **Roelke et al. (2026)** - [Assemblage organization over time prevents invasion success in phytoplankton](#)

- **Yilmaz et al. (2026)** - [*The effects of heatwaves and short-term warming on greenhouse gas emissions in shallow saline lakes: a synchronized mesocosm experiment in two climate zones of Türkiye*](#) (contact Gültekin Yilmaz tekin.ims@gmail.com to request a copy of the paper)
- **Salazar-Torres et al. (2025)** - [*Potentially toxic cyanobacterial blooms: An emerging risk in Peruvian freshwater ecosystems*](#) (contact Anthony Salazar at gسالازارت@continental.edu.pe to request a copy of the paper).
- **Salazar-Torres et al. (2025)** - [*Zooplankton structure in high-Andean reservoirs of southern Peru: An approach to its relationship with limnological variables*](#) (contact Anthony Salazar at gسالازارت@continental.edu.pe to request a copy of the paper).
- **Wagah et al. (2026)** - [*Negotiating change in the African Great Lakes: Fishers' knowledge, adaptive strategies, and governance gaps in Lake Victoria's Muhuru Bay and Migingo Island, Kenya*](#)

If you have an upcoming presentation or poster on aquatic ecology at a conference, feel free to email us, and we'll gladly **feature you in our newsletter** to increase its visibility within our ECR community.

If you know of any online events, job opportunities, and conferences that would be relevant to our ECR community, please contact **Varsha Rani** (vysneha9@gmail.com), **Anika Happe** (anika.happe@uni-oldenburg.de), **Maria Nicoară** (maria.nicoara@icbcluj.ro), or **Gizem Oğuz** (gizemoguz9806@gmail.com) to feature them in our newsletter, Discord server, and Bluesky account.

If you are interested in leading an online presentation (lecture/workshop) on the topic of your expertise, **or if you would like to join the next Ecology Toolbox Event** (5-minute quick, casual presentation of a tool you regularly use in your research), **please register [here](#)**.

And lastly, if you do not want to miss out on information regarding ECR activities and opportunities regarding mesocosm-based research and aquatic science, you can sign up [here](#) to receive our newsletter and [join our Discord server](#). The newsletter is sent out every two to three months. We post upcoming grants and opportunities in our newsletter on Discord!

For more information, visit us at [AQUACOSM ECR Network](#).

Stay updated and connected with us via  

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