

Plant Ecology Seminar

100206-FS2021-0

Spring Semester 2021

Wednesday 16:15-17:30, lecture hall

1.5 ECTS

Structure of seminar

- > Members of the Plant Ecology group present their on-going research, or ideas for future research
- > Occasional presentations by guests and collaborators
- > Talks should be 30-40 minutes
- > Programme: ILIAS

Benefits for students

- > Overview of research in plant ecology group
- > Listen to research talks
- > Learn how science is communicated
- > Hear and participate in scientific debates

Requirements for 1.5 ECTS

- > Regular attendance, cannot pass if miss more than two talks (except for illness, family reasons, military service)
- > Homework: short essay about one of the seminar topics
 - Email a **plan + figure sketch** saizhugo@gmail.com and caterina.penone@ips.unibe.ch not more than **10 days** after the seminar
- > Asking questions: read the papers in ILIAS before the Seminar

Writing the essay

- > Should be around 2000 words
- > Three sections
 - Background,
 - Summary of the Seminar
 - Discussion & Outlook
- > List of references cited in the text at the end of the essay

Background/ introduction

- > Broader scientific context
- > Why is this novel and interesting?
- > What hypotheses are being tested?
- > Start broad and progressively get more specific
- > Use Web of Science to search for literature

Summary of talk

- > Concisely and accurately summarise methods and results
 - How was the study designed?
 - How were data collected?
 - How were they analysed?
 - What effects were found? Significant?
- > How did the speaker interpret the results?
- > Do the results support the hypotheses?
- > Put it in your own words and finish with a short summary paragraph

Discussion and Outlook

- > Critically evaluate the talk
- > Were there any methodological issues?
- > What contribution does it make to the subject?
- > What are the open questions? How could they be tackled in a future study?
- > Finish with a conclusion giving your overall view of the talk

- > Compare with literature
- > Listen to the discussion and think about it

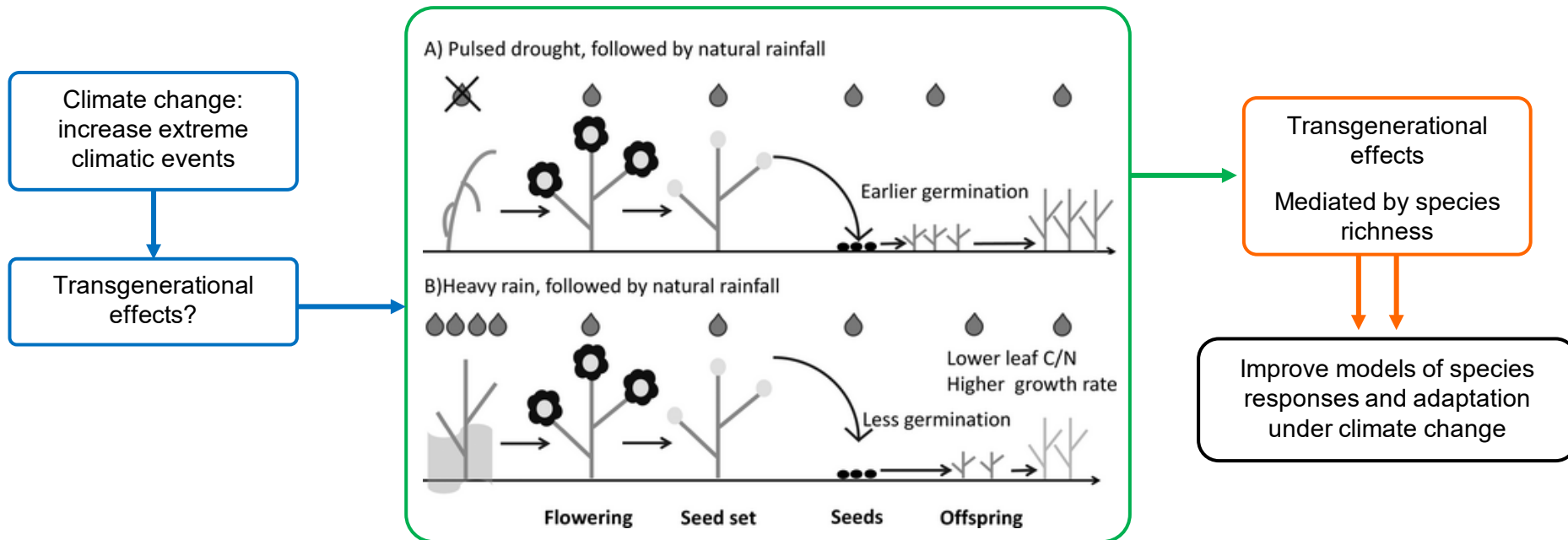
Abstract figure

- > Summarise the contents: background, methods, results, take-home message
- > Helps to structure the essay and think about important messages
- > Simple and clear, readable
- > Provide short description in a caption

- > Bonus for design (2 points max)

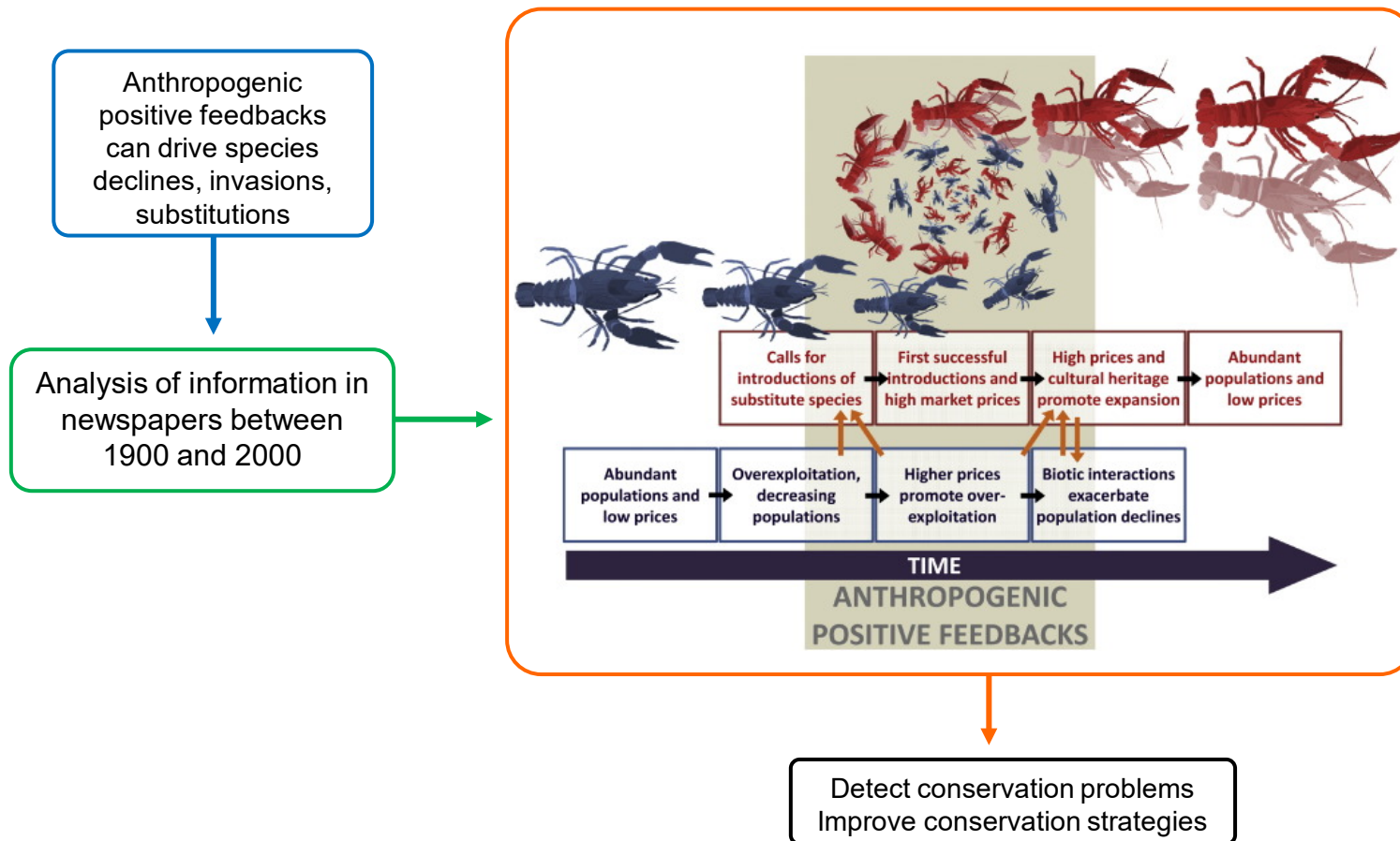
Abstract figure – example 1

- > Test of transgenerational effects on two species after extreme weather manipulations



Abstract figure – example 2

- > Species substitutions driven by anthropogenic positive feedbacks: Spanish crayfish species as a case study



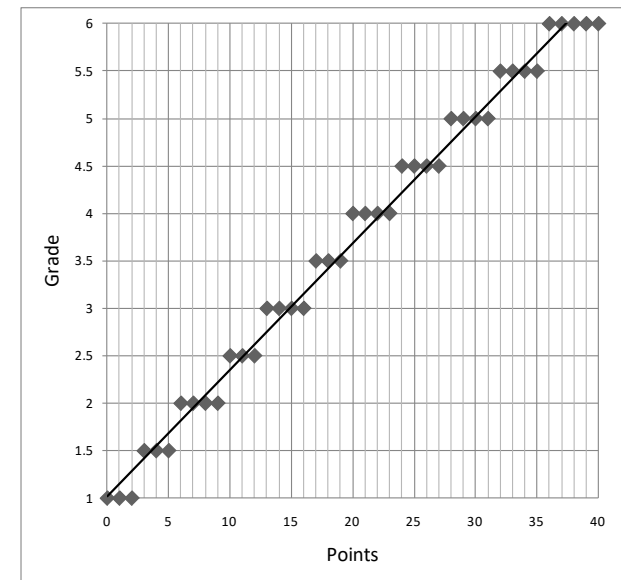
Marking

	fail	okay	Good	excellent	Weight	Max. points
Seminar summarized <i>Text: 7 points, Figure: 3 points</i>	0	2	3	4	25%	10
Explanation of broader context	0	2	3	4	18%	7.2
Criticism & further ideas	0	2	3	4	18%	3.2
Additional literature included	0	2	3	4	8%	3.2
Structure logical	0	2	3	4	8%	3.2
Language correct & precise	0	2	3	4	8%	3.2
Participation in discussions	0	2	3	4	15%	6
TOTAL						40

Participation in discussions:

- 0 - 1 : 0 points
- 2 - 4 : 2 points
- 5 - 8 : 3 points
- 9+ : 4 points

Bonus points for figure design: 2 points maximum



Deadlines

- > Select an essay topic within **one week after the first seminar**
- > Send us (saizhugo@gmail.com and caterina.penone@ips.unibe.ch) a plan of your essay and a sketch of your figure latest **10 days after the seminar** you're writing about
- > Send us your essays by June 16th

Example – schedule in ILIAS

Date	Speaker	Title of the presentation	Material (pdf, pptx)	Essay
24.02.2021	No seminar (Biodiversity Exploratories Assembly)			
03.03.2021	Yvonne Künzi	Exploring the limits of drought resistance and resilience of grassland communities shaped by land use	➤ Stampfli_et_al-2018-Global_Change_Biology.pdf (993.45 KB)	
10.03.2021	Valentin Klaus	Restoring urban greenspaces for nature and people	➤ Fischer, Neuenkamp et al. 2020 ConLett.pdf (2.48 MB)	
17.03.2021	Noëlle Schenk	Effects of multitrophic β -diversity and land-diversity and land-use intensity on grassland multifunctionality	➤ mori2016_soilfungi_multifunctionality.pdf (759.08 KB)	
24.03.2021	Annekäthi Schenk	Development of an argumentation basis for the reactivation of a collection using the example of the herbarium of the Botanical Garden in Bern		
31.03.2021	Anita Streit	Land-use affects phyllosphere microbiomes and their impact on plant performance	➤ Whitaker et al 2017 EcolLett.pdf (748.58 KB)	

Links

> Schedule:

https://ilias.unibe.ch/goto_ilias3_unibe_copa_2025994.html

> Zoom link : <https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/96930962832>