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The Seventh Biennial Conference of the International Biogeography Society

Hosted by the University of Bayreuth (Germany), 8th to 12th January, 2015

The biennial conferences of the IBS are a showcase of biogeography writ large, from well-established themes of the history of evolutionary clades and the assembly of biota into regions, to the response of taxa to changing environments and how those responses can inform us on the future of biodiversity. The symposia presentations at the upcoming conference in Bayreuth will showcase the work of leading biogeographers on topics that span a range of sub-themes but should be of broad appeal to any well-rounded biogeographer. The four half-day symposia will address 1) how pre-Quaternary fossil data can illuminate modern biogeographic patterns or processes, 2) how the more recent climate history can help address still poorly constrained aspects of climate-change biogeography such as adaptation, migration, and extinction, 3) how advances in remote sensing are revolutionizing measuring spatial pattern and change over time, and 4) how functional ecology and biogeography can be linked to provide a deeper mechanistic understanding of the causes and consequences of changing biodiversity. Additional keynote lectures will be delivered by Daniel Simberloff for the Alfred Russel Wallace Award and by Daniel Rabosky for the MacArthur & Wilson Award. Details on these symposia and award lectures, and a wide variety of information on the conference, can be found at the conference web page at <http://www.bayceer.uni-bayreuth.de/ibs2015/>.

The meeting in Bayreuth will provide excellent opportunities to showcase your work. Compared to previous conferences, there will be slightly increased capacity for contributed talks with no more than four concurrent sessions. Also, each of the two evening poster sessions will be enhanced by an initial hour of one-minute "lightning talks" in which posters can be highlighted in a rapid-fire style. Registration is open and the abstract submission deadline is the 10th of October.

Workshops and excursions are planned for before and after the packed three days of presentations. Examples of workshops include a full-day workshop addressing how IBS and biogeographers in general can contribute to the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and another full-day workshop on cutting-edge methods in species distribution modeling. Excursions will include characteristic landscapes of Central Europe such as the montane forests in the granitic Fichtelgebirge and the Jurassic karst formations in the Fränkische Schweiz. Special regard is given to the fact that the ecosystems and their biodiversity are reflecting the long-term human impact and cultural influences. One excursion will visit locations where Alexander von Humboldt worked at the end of the 18th century during five years as a director of mining for the Prussian administration. Please see the conference web page for details on the workshops and field trips.

The hosting University of Bayreuth, founded in the 1970s, has a special focus on ecology and environmental science. Study programs to include global change ecology, biodiversity and ecology, and geocology (see <http://www.en.uni-bayreuth.de/home/index.html>). In research, biogeographical modelling, experiments and field research are addressed. The Ecological-Botanical



Garden of the University of Bayreuth is unique in its concept. Ecosystems are mimicked, both in the modern greenhouses with air conditioning systems that control air humidity and various kinds of precipitation, and in the gardens where northern-hemisphere plant communities are reconstructed together with their natural bedrock. See http://www.obg.uni-bayreuth.de/en/fuer_besucher/walking/index.html.

Bayreuth is located in northern Bavaria, in the center of Germany. The typical January weather in Bayreuth is brisk, with average high temperatures near 0°C, but the setting at the University of Bayreuth could not be more welcoming for meeting old and new colleagues, sharing field

stories, and experiencing the vibrant growth occurring in biogeography. So, pack a sweater and a winter hat and come see why IBS conferences are so high on the list for so many people!

Daniel Gavin

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Carl Beierkuhnlein

Local host, Bayreuth Center for Ecology and Environmental Research, University of Bayreuth, Germany

You can find information about the **International Biogeography Society** at <http://www.biogeography.org/>, and contact with other biogeographers at the **IBS blog** (<http://biogeography.blogspot.com/>), the **IBS facebook group** (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6908354463>) and the **IBS twitter channel** (<https://twitter.com/biogeography>).