

# UC Merced

## Frontiers of Biogeography

### Title

IBS biennial meeting: abstract deadline is 10th October

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### Authors

Gavin, Daniel G.  
Beierkuhnlein, Carl

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## IBS biennial meeting: abstract deadline is 10<sup>th</sup> October

The 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting will be held 8–12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in Bayreuth Germany<sup>1</sup>. The local hosts at the University of Bayreuth and the program committee are completing the details of the meeting as we approach the deadline for abstract submission (10<sup>th</sup> October); review of abstracts will begin shortly after that date.

Also, remember that although the deadlines for early registration and student travel award applications were 30<sup>th</sup> September, you can still register (regular fee) and add or remove supplemental activities (field trips and workshops). Field trip registration is open until 30<sup>th</sup> November. Workshop registration will remain open until the workshops fill.

### *The meeting*

The format of IBS's biennial meetings is centered on four plenary symposia. At this meeting, we are introducing two minor variations to the original format of two days of plenary symposia followed by one day of contributed talks. First, we are breaking up the symposia to span all three days, so that on two days there will be a plenary symposium in the morning, followed by contributed talks in the afternoon, and a poster session in the evening. Second, prior to each poster session, and convened in the large auditorium, there will be one hour of "lightning talks" of about 40 rapid-fire presentations of the highlights of certain posters. If you wish to participate in this, select "poster with lightning talk" when submitting an abstract. We can accommodate only 40 such presentations each day.

For the Bayreuth conference, IBS also has increased the capacity for oral contributed presentations (15 minutes in length), while maintaining only four concurrent sessions. Abstracts will be reviewed by small committees assigned to each of the disciplinary themes. These committees will make every attempt to achieve fair and quick decisions.

For workshops, we recommend visiting the conference web pages for an updated description of the BioGeoBEARS workshop, which is on methods and software for historical biogeographic analyses. Attendees of this workshop will learn how to build and test models in BioGeoBEARS, as well as necessary basic skills in R and statistical model choice.

A second pre-conference workshop will focus on the 'next generation' in species-distribution modelling. It will provide an introduction to emerging themes that represent current frontiers in SDM research. Theoretical overviews and practical examples will be related to these emerging fields. Intense exercises will allow hands-on experience with data and software and provide useful R scripts for future use.

After the conference, on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> a workshop is aiming to link the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services<sup>2</sup> (IPBES) and biogeography. IPBES participants will present insights into the first set of assessments to be presented and voted on during the same week at the plenary of IPBES-3, in Bonn. Structure, tasks, and perspectives of IPBES will be discussed. Upcoming calls for working groups will be presented. Furthermore, the review process and the political nature of IPBES will be addressed.

The fourth workshop is on the integrative analysis of spatial biodiversity data and the 'Map of Life'<sup>3</sup>. Participants will consider pitfalls of (and solutions for) spatial biodiversity data analysis in fields encompassing biodiversity and ecological informatics, species distribution modeling, species niche characterization, species richness analyses, trait biogeography, and conservation assessments. Particular emphasis will be given to occupancy-based and Bayesian models. New tools in the Map of Life infrastructure will be introduced.

### *The surroundings*

The city of Bayreuth offers a setting of historical

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bayceer.uni-bayreuth.de/ibs2015/>, last accessed 26/09/2014

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ipbes.net/>, last accessed 26/09/2014

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.mappinglife.org/>, last accessed 26/09/2014

buildings such as the festival hall for the annual Wagner music festival, or the Baroque opera house that recently became a World Heritage site. Bayreuth is a typical central European city, where most locations are within walking distance. Eremitage, Fantaisie and Hofgarten are historic parks from the period of the Markgrafs in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and offer fascinating scenery.

The district of Bayreuth was the place where Alexander von Humboldt was working in monitoring resources for the Prussian government and later as a director of mining until he left Germany to travel to America. Humboldt was fascinated by the geologic diversity and heterogeneity of landscapes, which clearly affected his later observations of organisms within their environment. Before and after the conference program, there will be one-day excursions to characteristic landscapes and cultural sites.

The modern campus of the University of Bayreuth is close to the city center (15 minutes walking, but shuttle buses will be organized as well). The welcome reception, plenary talks, poster sessions, and contributed talks will take place in close proximity to each other. The Eco-

logical-Botanical Garden also is located on the campus. The concept of this scientific garden for research and teaching is unique; it aims to mimic ecosystems and their complex environment. Field experiments on the ecological effects of climatic extremes are also established here and can be visited during the conference.

The local committee in close cooperation with the board of the IBS is preparing a conference that is both stimulating and attractive. Conference fees include the banquet dinner in a historic museum for steam engines and all other social events such as the welcome reception in the Ecological-Botanical Garden.

### Daniel Gavin

IBS Vice-President for Conferences, Department of Geography, University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403 USA;  
[dgavin@uoregon.edu](mailto:dgavin@uoregon.edu)

### Carl Beierkuhnlein

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