



Soil Care Network

DEVELOPING A GLOBAL, INTERDISCIPLINARY SOIL COMMUNITY

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About me

- ▶ Research Fellow at the Department of Geography, the University of Sheffield.
- ▶ Interdisciplinary environmental social scientist – primarily environmental 'matters' /human-nature relations in food production.
- ▶ How is knowledge of 'nature' produced, and this knowledge it shapes and is shaped by politics, ethics, and economics.
- ▶ Soil a focus since 2016, esp. practices of no-till & sustainable soil management farmers; political economy of soils; soil knowledge creation, co-creation, and exchange.
- ▶ Current research: land managers' expectations around soil metagenomics; soil sensing as a pathway to soil care communities of practice.



The University
Of Sheffield.
Institute for
Sustainable Food.



Soil Care Network founded in 2017



SOILCARENETWORK







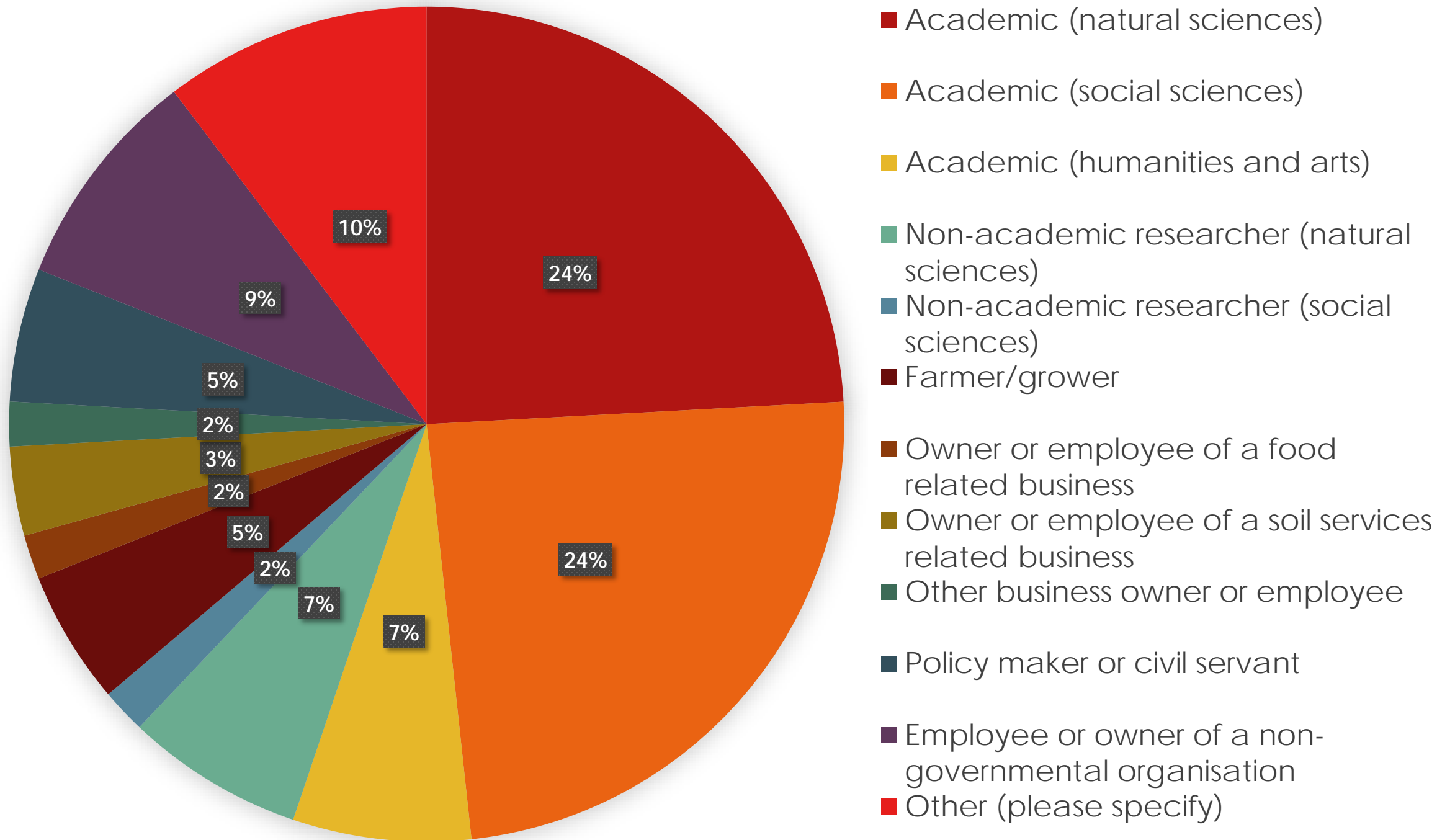
SOILCARENETWORK

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Soil Care Network

The Soil Care Network is an interdisciplinary, global community of scholars and practitioners animated by the love of, fascination with, and dedication to soils.

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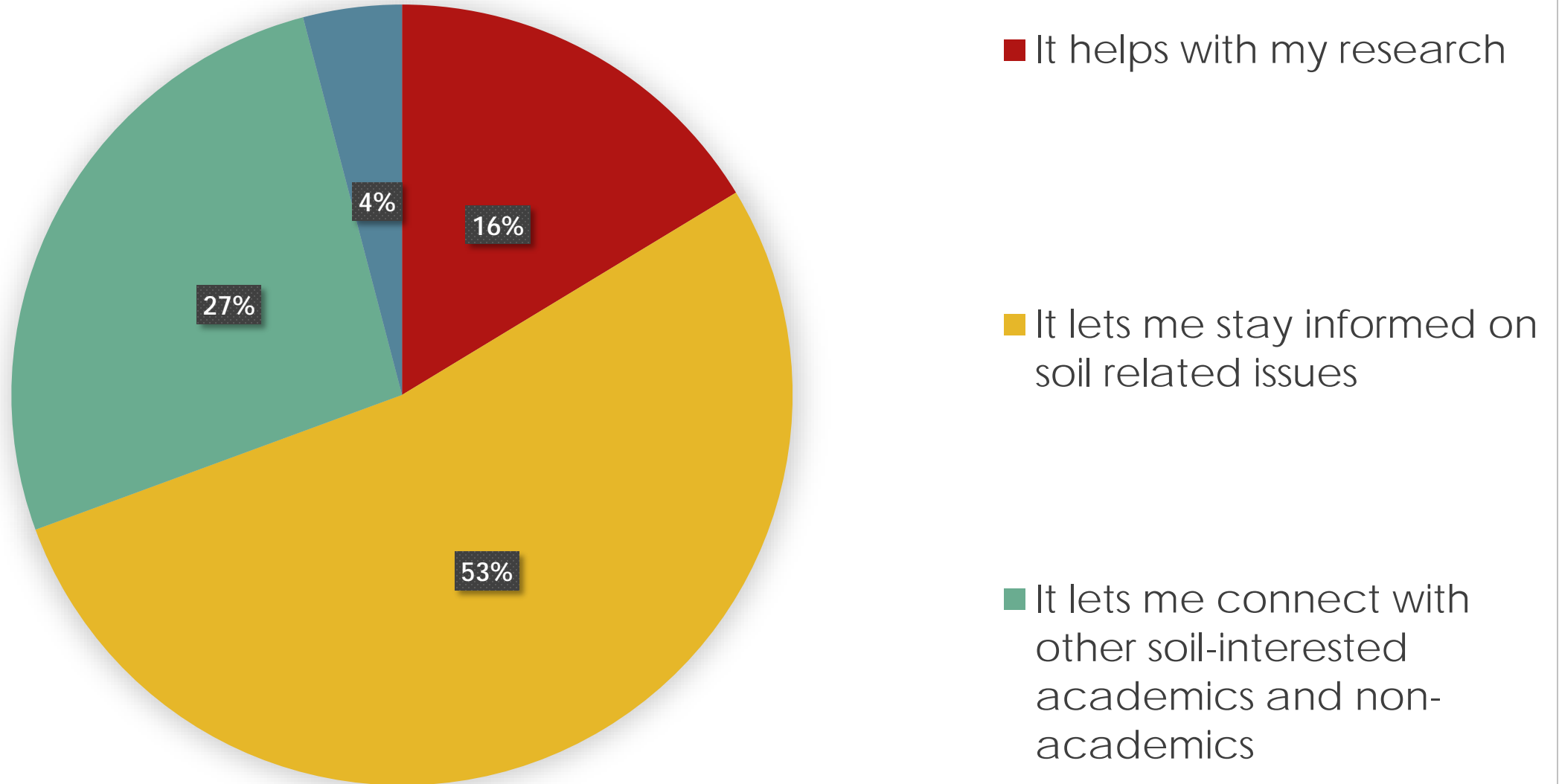


Soil Care Network Newsletter

- ▶ Newsletter published monthly since September 2017
- ▶ Soil research; soil in the news; soil social movements and policy; soil editorials and blogs; events, conferences and books.
- ▶ Some stats from yesterday: August 2019 newsletter read 190 times during a month; 3700 website visitors since 1st Jan 2019.



Newsletter primary motivation for joining SCN



Newsletter challenges

- Which research is sufficiently 'interdisciplinary' & of general interest beyond a narrow (sub)disciplinary focus? Subjective 'filter'.
- Social science, humanities, and arts research and innovation less 'newsworthy' & so harder to find by Google algorithms. Recently added a review of published articles on Scopus.
- Minority World/Global North bias and Anglo-Saxon bias.
- Soil and land – still seeing soil as predominantly as 'something soil scientists know about' or 'something farmers work in'. How to stress centrality of land to all political, social, cultural, economic activity – and especially conflict! - without losing 'soil' in favour of 'environment'?

What the members value

- ▶ Learning across disciplines and perspectives

"Learning about soil-related conferences that span disciplines."

"It's been great for getting insights into different perspectives on soil and for generating new ideas to engage the people I work with in."

- ▶ New research partnerships

"Definitely exposing me to new perspectives, but also a range of options for research partnerships."

"The chance to connect to people outside the natural sciences with an interest in soil science."

"Connecting with researchers on soil beyond arts and humanities."

Soil Care Network events

- ▶ 'Trouble in the land' sessions at the Royal Geographical Society conference in August 2019

Sustainable soil management

Soils – the familiar and the strange

Sophie Wynne-Jones (Bangor University, UK)

Soil philosophy

Hocus pocus? Exploring the role of ritual in biodynamic agriculture practices

Anna Pigott (Swansea University, UK)

Soil education

'Soil is awesome': soil as a more-than-human community

Raichael Lock (University of Manchester, UK)

Soil aesthetics

'Getting your hands dirty': Sticky Soil and the Playfulness of Garden Work

Jan van Duppen (The Open University, UK)

Soil knowledge co-production

Reflections on the use of a transdisciplinary approach to investigate soil quality

Stephen Jones (University of Nottingham, UK)

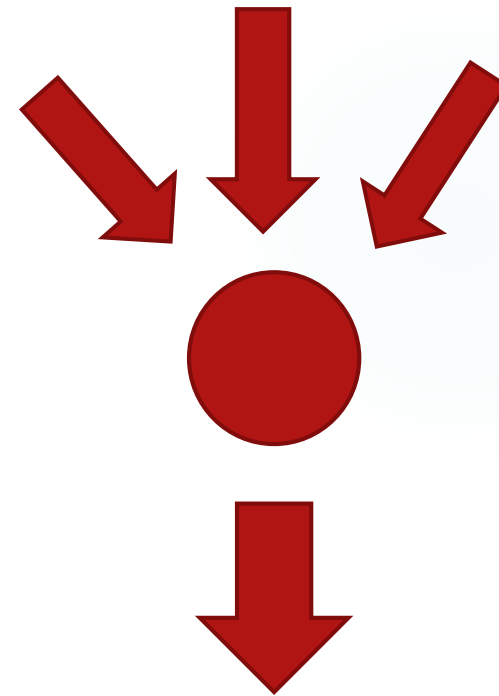
Soil and land use planning

On the temporality of soil as a (circular) resource

Caroline Newton (KU Leuven, Belgium)

Looking ahead

- ▶ Strengthening the importance of soils and land in all socio-ecological practices, in all arenas of societal life at a variety of scales, in all disciplines.
- ▶ Webinar series launching very soon.
- ▶ More collaborative effort in the Newsletter creation and more interaction between Network members.
- ▶ Exploring face-to-face or virtual conference/workshop opportunities.



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- ▶ Exploring face-to-face or virtual conference/workshop opportunities.
- ▶ Putting the Newsletter on the agenda of more stakeholders.

