Soil Care Network

DEVELOPING A GLOBAL, INTERDISCIPLINARY SOIL COMMUNITY
DR ANNA KRZYWOSZYNSKA
THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

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.





Soil Care Network founded in 2017

















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.



Read more



JULIE GUTHMAN

Julie Guthman is a professor of social sciences at the University of California at Santa Cruz. She bus published extensively on contemporary offorts to transform food producing, distribution, and consumption, with a particular focus on the race, class and body politics of "alternative food." Her publications include two multi-award winning books: Agrarian Droams: the Paradox of Organic Farming in California and Weighing In: Obestry, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalium. In 2017 she movined followships from the John R. Simon Guggenheim Foundation and the Raddiffle Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard to work on a book that will trace the role of soil pathogens in California's strawberry influstry. She is also the moipient of the 2015 Excellence in Research Award from the Agriculture, Food and Human Valous Society. Here about her and her research leve.



JUI IF INGRAM

hilio is interested in knowledge exchange within the agricultural community and knowledge and coinnovation processes in the context of sestainable agriculture with particular reference to seinterest and processes. In the context of sestainable agriculture with particular reference to sea as Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems, socio-technical transitions, behavioural studies (farmer knowledge, attitudes and motivations). She has used stabuluider engagement methods to involve farming and supply chain actors in a range of European research projects (F97 and 1/2020) which explain how to improve the effectiveness of support (research translation, policy, advice, pour to pear learning etc.) for agricultural soil management. These projects include: Sustainable farm Planagement Aimed at Reducing Threats to Soils under climate charge (SmartSOIL). SoilCare for profitable and sustainable crop production in Europe (SmilCare); Preventing and Remediating Dogradation of Soils in Europe through Landcare (RECARE). None about her and her research here.



STEPHEN JONES

Stephen is a PhD camilidate based in the departments of Geography and Biosciencus at the University of Nortringham. His project aims to take a transdisciplinary approach to the study of soil quality in the East Phillands of England by using methods from both serial and soil science disciplines, as well as drawing upon academic both social and soil science disciplines, as well as drawing upon academic bothes of knowledge. This involves interviews with farmers, participatory emerciaes and observation as well as soil quality analysis using a range of physical, chemical and biological indicators. His interest in soil, the newtronnext and interferancisciplinary research comes from an MSc in Environmental Management (University Of Nortingham) and a BSc in Human and Physical Geography (University Of Reading). www.nortingham.ac.uk/esrc-dic/people findes asper

- 260 members (mailing list)
- Some members choose to publish their profiles on the website
- A good diversity of member disciplinary and professional backgrounds



BETH BROCKETT

Beth Brodust is an interdisciplinary environmental scientist. She has an MSc in Microbial Forest Soil Ecology from the University of British Columbia and a PhD in Interdisciplinary Mapping of Soil Carbon from Lancaster University. She has worked within academia, including as a mentor on Lancaster Environment Centre's online soils and sustainable agriculture courses, has worked on local environmental projects within the third sector and is currently a Lead Land Management and Conservation Advisor for Natural England. Beth has published in a range of poer-reviewed journals, specialist blogs and magazines and has authored a Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology briefing paper on Emissions from Crops'. Her doctoral research worked with critical geography, mixed methods GIS and above-below ground ecology to investigate the different ways soil carbon is known and experienced in agricultural landscapes. She has held a passion for soil since her A-Level geography project and is delighted that this network exists. More about Beth here.



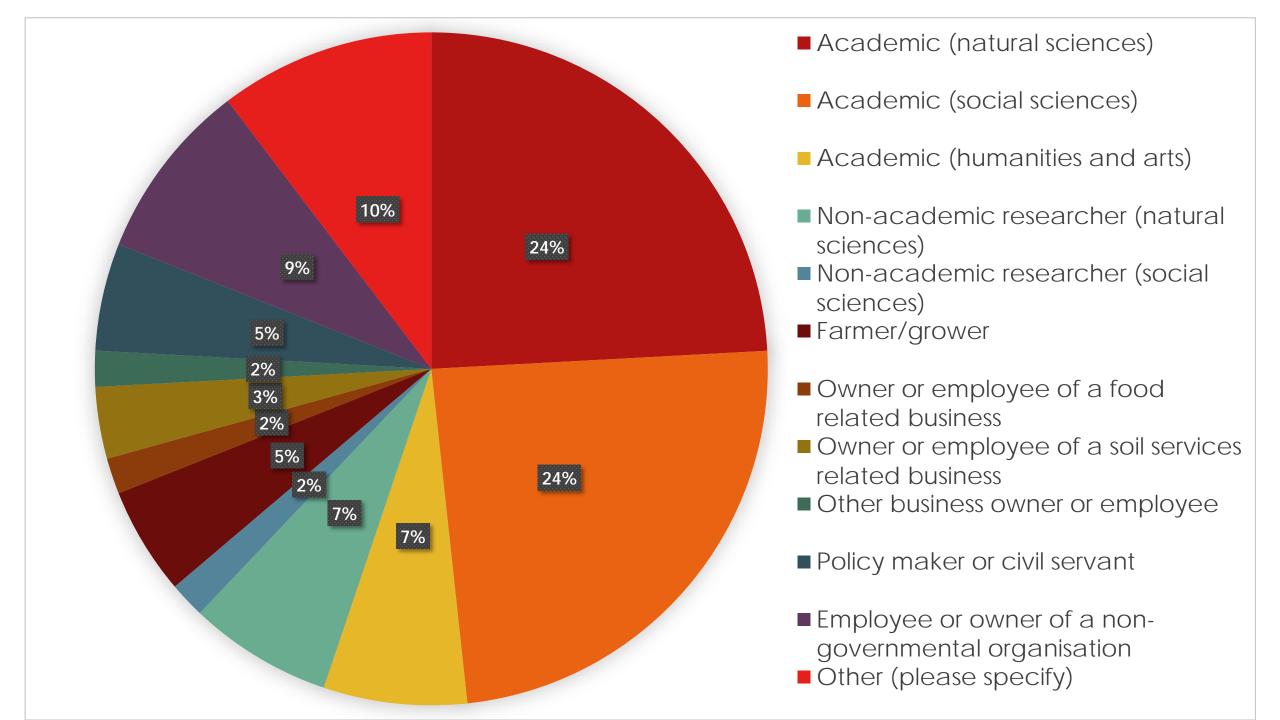
ASMINE BLACK

Jasmine works with farmers, growers, researchers and policy makers to create more sustainable ways of producing food and enhancing above and below ground biodiversity. She is currently undertaining this work at the Country-side and Community Research Irestitute, and was previously on the Innovative Farmers Programme (Soil Association). She has a PhD in bulk and molecular soil organic carbon research across rainforest-savannah boundaries in the Amazon, Guyana. She has also lived in Japan working on an organic farming social project for the largest organic cotton company in the country, as well as with natural agriculture cooperatives and farms throughout Japan and in <u>Japanese gardening</u>, Jasmine is interested in how different cultures use and understand soil across the world. She is passionate about spreading the importance of about Jasmine here.



FELICITY CROTTY

Dr Felicity Crotty has been researching soil biology and soil health for the last ten years. Firstly, through her PhD at Rothamsted Research (North Wyle) where she was investigating the soil food web – following the trophic interactions between springtalls, mittes and microbial resources; and subsequently as a post-doc at Aberystwyth University focusing on the PROSOIL project and maintaining healthy soil in agricultural grassland in Wales. She joined the Allerton Project (Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust) in October 2015. The Allerton Project is a research, education and demonstration farm in Leicestershire; that is currently a study site for the ELH-2020 project SoilCare, AHDB, and Kelloggs; as well as Defra's Sustainable Interestrication research Platform (SID), which has been the main focus of her work to date. Through her research on SID site has been focusing on the effect of cover crops on soil health and sustainability. Felicity has been investigating the effects of cover crops on soil health and sustainability. Felicity has been investigating the effects of cover crops on soil biology (earthworms, mesofauna, nematodes), chemistry (N, P, K, and other nutrients) and physics (compaction and water infiltration). Through combining her expertise in all three fields of soil and future crop yields. However, scientific research does not occur in vacuum; therefore, Felicity has embarked on a focused drive to promote knowledge exchange within the agricultural community. Engaging with stakeholder groups at the Allerton Project, as well as at large-scale famorfocused events lite "Cereals", "Groudswell" and the Royal Welsh Show. Follow Folicity on twitter as @collembola and more about her research https://www.researchgate.net/profile /Felicity_Crotty



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.



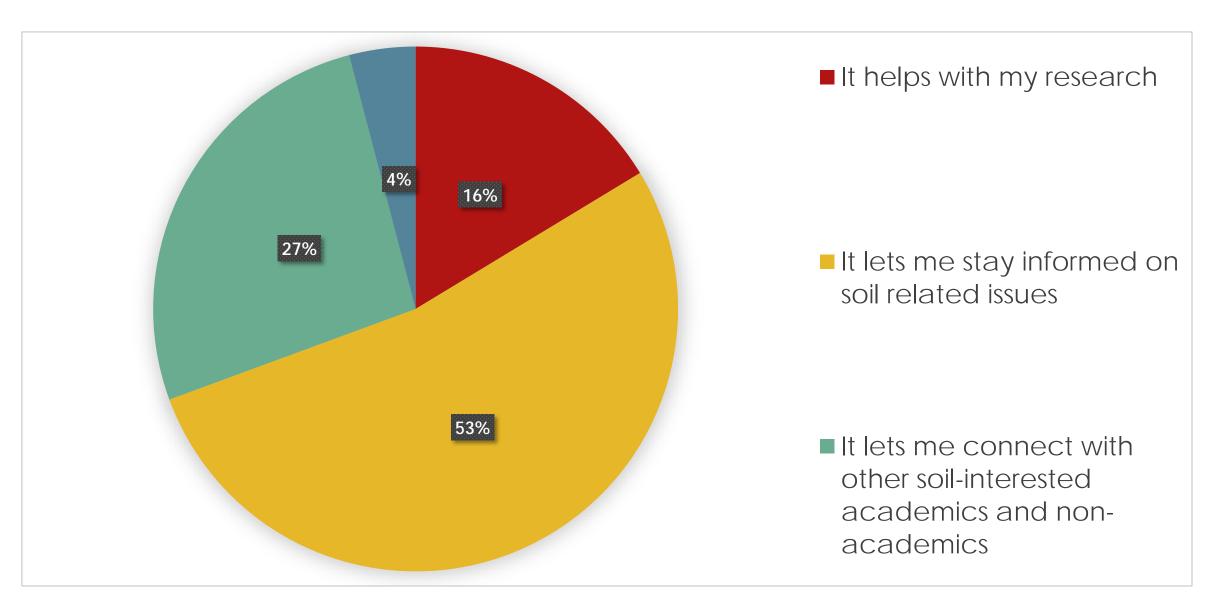
Soil Care Network Newsletter August 2019

by Anna Krzywoszyńska

Research

- What may soil security mean in practice? This paper by Bennett et al discusses <u>Australian Soil</u>
 <u>Security framework</u> as an example of how soil security may be mobilised to support better land use and food system.
- Manufacturing soils from organic waste is an important part of limiting over-use of soils, however
 manufactured soils struggle to maintain nutrients. Adding biochar, new research suggests, is a
 successful strategy to overcome this problem.
- How may <u>citizen science be mobilised to enhance soil care?</u> This paper by Kovács et al discusses the current learnings from the GROW Observatory on collective soil moisture monitoringy.
- Satellite microwave radiometry presents a new method for measuring permafrost depth, important
 as monitoring changes to permafrost due to climate warming becomes more urgent.
- For centuries 'night soil' human excreta were a valuable part of the nutrient cycle between

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

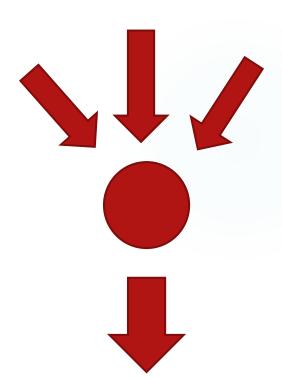
Reflections on the use of a transdisciplinary approach to investigate soil quality
Stephen Jones (University of Nottingham, UK)

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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- More collaborative effort in the Newsletter creation and more interaction between Network members.
- Exploring face-to-face or virtual conference/workshop opportunities.
- Putting the Newsletter on the agenda of more stakeholders.

