

Lars J. Munkholm

I strongly recommend you to have a look at ISTRO's brand new, fresh and shiny website (www.istro.org). The layout has been updated and it can now be viewed from different platforms (PC, smartphones, tablets etc.), which is a great improvement. The website now meets all the current security standards and is equipped with a modern, structured download facility. Soon, it will be possible for branches and working groups to add and edit contents under their headings. New content and feedback is very welcome. Thanks to Erik van den Elsen, ISTRO's long-term web-manager, for updating the website.

⌘ Soil and Tillage Research Update

At the Paris conference, Marianna Taffi, Elsevier Publisher of Soil and Tillage Research, had a very interesting presentation. After Marianna's presentation there was an open discussion where Editors-in-Chief, Rainer Horn, Elke Noellemeyer and Xinhua Peng contributed. Here are some of the main take home messages from the presentation and the following discussion.

Soil and Tillage Research is in good shape. The impact factor is increasing and it is presently one of the best ranked soil science journals (#6 out of 113 in the Soil Science category according to Scopus). Elsevier receives 800–1000 manuscript for Soil and Tillage Research every year – a number that is increasing markedly from year to year.

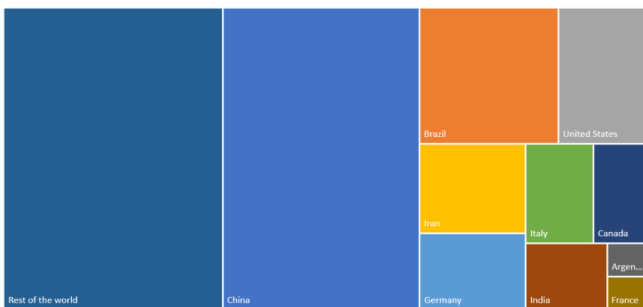


Figure showing accepted articles by country. From Marianna Taffi's presentation.

This means that the workload on editors is increasing. About 30% of the manuscripts are

rejected by the editors before review and 50% more are rejected after review. Thus, only about 20% of the submissions are accepted in the end. The accepted publications are coming from many different countries as shown in the figure. The countries with most accepted publications are China, Brazil, USA, Iran and Germany.

More high quality submissions is wanted. The Editors-in-Chief stressed that too many submissions do not meet the high quality standards as illustrated by the high rejection rate before review and after review. Internal reviewing by a third party within the author's own institution and language editing before submission were mentioned as tools to secure high quality submissions. You can obtain language-editing service via the Elsevier webshop: <https://webshop.elsevier.com/languageservices>. Marianna Taffi also mentioned the Elsevier tool "Researcher Academy" <https://researcheracademy.elsevier.com/> where you can learn more about scientific writing and publishing.

We must give reviewing higher priority. High quality reviewing is the cornerstone of scientific publishing. Unfortunately, the Editors-in-Chief experience that it is – in many cases – very difficult to find reviewers for submissions. Actually, they have had to reject papers solely because it was impossible to find relevant reviewers. This is very unfortunate, and collectively, we need to do much better. According to Marianna Taffi, it is a general problem in scientific publishing. Therefore, Elsevier and other publishers are doing more to recognize reviewing by issuing certificates and rewards for excellent reviewing - <https://www.reviewerrecognition.elsevier.com/#/>.

I know by experience that it can be difficult to find time to do reviewing in a busy daily life as a researcher. However, you need to remember that there are many benefits of reviewing – one of the most important ones is that you can learn a lot on how to produce high quality papers.

⌘ Honorary Member – Bruce Ball

As mentioned in the last ISTRO INFO, Bruce Ball was appointed honorary member at the Paris conference for his long-time involvement in ISTRO. Bruce has recently retired and he was on holiday at the time of the conference. Therefore, he received the notice afterwards. Bruce was very happy to become an honorary member and assures that he will continue writing about soils in his retirement. Visual soil evaluation is one of Bruce's favourite topics and Joanne Cloy recently captured Bruce and Blair McKenzie digging as part of the VESS evaluation in the JHI Mid Pilmore experimental plots in Scotland.



⌘ Subsoil Compaction Working Group

Marco Lorenz from the Thünen Institute of Agricultural Technology, Germany has taken over as chair of Working group B, Subsoil compaction. Mathieu Lamandé continues as Secretary of the group. Thanks to Thomas Keller for his long service as chair of the group.

As a side activity, Mathieu is organizing a PhD course on Soil deformation and fragmentation, 18–23 March 2019 (<http://agro.au.dk/phd-uddannelse/phd-kurser-hos-institut-for-agrooekologi/soil-deformation-and-fragmentation-2019/>). There will be lectures by Mathieu, Thomas Keller, Blair McKenzie, Per Schjønning and others.

⌘ Upcoming Meetings and Events

February 2019

3rd International Controlled Traffic Farming Conference, Federation University, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, February 12-14 2019. Webpage: <https://www.internationalctfconference.com.au/>

March 2019

Intersoil 2019 - International Conference on Soil, Sediments and Water. March 26–28, 2019 in Lille, France. Webpage: <https://www.intersol.fr/>

April 2019

EGU General Assembly 2019. April 7–11, 2019 in Vienna, Austria. <https://www.egu2019.eu/>

October 2019

7th International Symposium on Soil Organic Matter, Hilton Adelaide, 6 – 11 October 2019 Webpage: <http://som2019.org/>

XXII Latin American Congress of Soil Science (CLACS). October 7 – 11 in Montevideo, Uruguay. Webpage: <https://clacs.org/> (in Spanish)

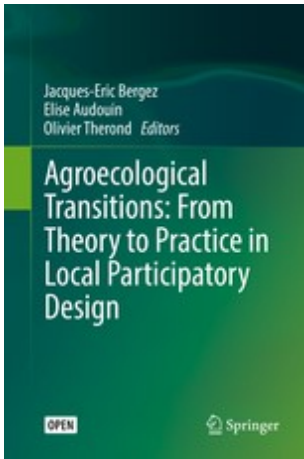
August 2020

Eurosoil. 24–28 AUGUST 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland. Webpage: <http://eurosoil2020.com/>

🌀 New Books

Agroecological Transitions: From Theory to Practice in Local Participatory Design

Editors: Jacques-Eric Bergez, Elise Audouin, and Oliver Therond



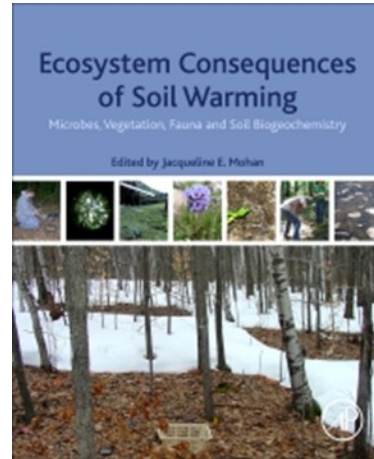
This volume describes both theoretical and practical aspects of agroecological transition specifics. This work broadens readers understanding of original conceptual and methodological framework for supporting local stakeholders into the agroecological transition design process.

More information on this book:

<https://www.springer.com/gb/book/9783030019525>

Ecosystem Consequences of Soil Warming: Microbes, Vegetation, Fauna and Soil Biogeochemistry

Editors: Jacqueline Mohan



Ecosystem Consequences of Soil Warming: Microbes, Vegetation, Fauna and Soil Biogeochemistry focuses on biotic and biogeochemical responses to warmer soils including plant and microbial evolution. It covers various field settings, such as arctic tundra; alpine meadows; temperate, tropical and subalpine forests; drylands; and grassland ecosystems.

More information on this book:

<https://www.elsevier.com/books/ecosystem-consequences-of-soil-warming/mohan/978-0-12-813493-1>

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For more information, please contact: Dr. Lars J. Munkholm, Assistant Secretary General, ISTRO, Aarhus University, Agroecology, P.O. Box 50, DK-8830 Tjele, Denmark.