



International Union for the Study of Social Insects

Madeleine Beekman, Secretary-General
Behaviour, Ecology and and Evolution (BEE) Lab
School of Life and Environmental Sciences
The University of Sydney, Sydney, 2006 NSW, Australia

Greetings from a very smokey Sydney where bushfires are burning all around us. While I love summer, I most definitely do not like the current situation. And even after almost twenty years, I still feel there is something seriously wrong about having Christmas in summer. Or perhaps there is just something wrong about Christmas in Australia:



Yup....that is how Christmas is celebrated here....well, by some people at least (too many if you ask me)

Our journal *Insectes Sociaux*

Do continue to support the IUSSI by submitting your papers to *Insectes Sociaux*. Thank you for your contributions and may there be many more in 2020. Also a big **thank you** to our editors, editorial board members and reviewers. I think Miriam Richards has settled in nicely into her new job. We have also started a new initiative and from now onwards *Insectes Sociaux* will publish the thank you speeches of the Hamilton Award winners. The first speech will be Koos Boomsma's which will appear in early 2020. We hope to be able to do the same for the West-Eberhard award.

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/InsectesSociaux?ref=bookmarks>

Follow the blog

<http://insectessociaux.com/>

and follow us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/inssociaux>

The *Encyclopedia of Social Insects* Update from Chris Starr

This IUSSI project, of which I am privileged to be the editor, is proceeding steadily, even if not nearly as quickly as I would wish. Of the 182 planned entries on topics from across the spectrum of insect sociobiology, 107 are now finalized and in production. About half of the rest have been returned to their authors with requests/suggestions for changes to better harmonize them with the volume as a whole. Backed by a strong advisory panel and drawing on the enthusiasm of the IUSSI membership as a whole, we have been able to make this a true community project. This is seen in the composition of the 204 authors, who are drawn from 27 countries in all inhabitable continents. The encyclopedia is shaping up as a richly illustrated and authoritative reference work that we can reasonably expect to appeal to professionals, students and amateur naturalists alike.

Meetings

The North American section is organising a break-out meeting in October next year:

<http://iussi.cyberbee.net/iussi-nas-2020-break-out-meeting/>

For more social insects related meetings, including the European IUSSI meeting in Toulouse, see here: <http://www.iussi.org/>, click on **Meetings**

IUSSI2022 Update

The North American Section is working on plans for the 2022 IUSSI Congress. The meeting will be held from 3-8 July, at the Marriott Marquis, San Diego Harbor. It should be a great venue. The hotel has extensive conference facilities, and is located directly across from San Diego's Gaslamp district. The trolley to Balboa Park and other local sites runs right past the hotel. Additionally, we will have a fantastic view of the July 4th fireworks on the harbor.

Our meeting program committee will be chaired by Stephen Pratt (Stephen.Pratt@asu.edu); the local hosting committee by James Nieh (jnieh@ucsd.edu); and the meeting secretary will be Jenny Jandt (jenny.jandt@otago.ac.nz). We additionally have diversity/inclusion, finance/fundraising, website, and graduate/postdoctoral committees. Committee assignments will be posted online as we develop them. If your members have particular interests in participating in one of those committees, please email Jenny Jandt or Jennifer Fewell (j.fewell@asu.edu).

At the recent NAS meeting, discussions on format and protocols produced an initial set of suggestions for the meeting. When the website officially goes online, we will open a "suggestion box" for further input. Suggestions voted for by the NAS membership include:

1. Limiting presentations to one oral presentation per speaker regardless of category, plus one poster as presenter. Co-authorship on posters and oral presentations remains unlimited.
2. Including a balance of symposia and thematic contributed sessions throughout the meeting, rather than all symposia or all contributed sessions.
3. Symposia will include a limited number of invited core presentations, with additional presentations chosen by organizers from contributed papers, which can then be revised to fit the symposium.
4. Emphasis on diversity of presenters - including career stage - in choosing symposia and invited speakers.
5. Inclusion of a separate student competition symposium (oral presentations), with potential inclusion of a similar competition for early postdoctoral students

We are enthusiastic about making this an inclusive, scientifically productive, and enjoyable meeting; we look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you in San Diego.

Jennifer Fewell
IUSSI President

Stephen Pratt
Congress Program Officer

IUSSI Code of Conduct Update by Chelsea Cook, chair of the CoC Committee

The committee has developed a code of conduct and a statement of procedures for IUSSI 2022. We have been in communication with several agencies, including AGU and the Entomological Society of America, and consultant Sherry Marts, to develop these documents.

My understanding is that we will provide these preliminary documents to Burk and Associates, the company we are working with to help organize and run IUSSI. IUSSI leadership will vote on these early in the meeting, then Burk and associates will enforce our code of conduct and will follow our statement of procedures if enacted.

I have been on a call with the organizing committee and Burk and Associates. Burk and Associates have a reporting service for code of conduct violations that we plan on using, which includes in-person on-site reporting, a phone number to call or text, and an anonymous online form.

The code of conduct committee has been very active in making the most effective and inclusive documents, and have been reporting our progress to each of their sections. The committee includes:

Chelsea Cook
Elva Robinson
Tomer Czaczkes
David Donoso
Simon Robson
Mathieu Lihoreau
Cristina Lorenzi
Mayaku Kutuskake
Raghavendra Gadagkar

Financial report covering the period January 1 – November 22, 2019

This has been a very simple year financially. We are saving up funds to support our students to attend IUSSI2022. The accounts have been approved by the Financial Subcommittee.

Accounting November 22, 2019

	Savings	Checking	Total
Beginning Balance	\$998.17	\$66,441.96	\$67,440.13
INCOME			
Annual income			\$ 45,640.76
Interest			\$ 0.19
Total			\$45,640.95
EXPENSES			
Best paper award			-\$ 1,225.00
Government fees			-\$ 50.00
Review articles			-\$ 1,472.72
Office			-\$ 1,155.00
Service charges			-\$ 60.00
Total			-\$ 3,962.72
Ending Balance			\$109,118.36

Respectfully submitted,



Madeleine Beekman, Secretary-General

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and all the best for 2020. Hopefully you'll be able to celebrate Christmas while breathing in clear air.

