



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



Berlin – Grunewald winter 2021

Greetings from snowy Berlin. It has been a long time since I experienced temperatures of minus 15°C. While the world outside is currently beautiful, the experience has strengthened my resolve to move to the tropics as soon as I can....

This newsletter contains the 2020 financial report, an update from Miriam Richards, section updates, and an update on San Diego, where preparations for IUSSI2022 are in full swing.

The IUSSI2022 will be my last meeting as Secretary-General, as I will then have reached the maximum period allowed (8 years). I would therefore encourage sections to start thinking

about potential names to put forward for the position. One does not need to only nominate people from their own section. Self-nominations are also allowed, so drop me a line if you are interested. The new Secretary-General will then be elected at the IUSSI 2022 meeting. Similarly, it is time to start thinking about the Hamilton Award and the inaugural Mary-Jane West-Eberhard award. Details of both awards follow. At the beginning of next year I will start the official selection process, but, again, no harm done to start thinking about potential candidates.

May Spring arrive soon this side of the planet!

Madeleine Beekman

Hamilton Award for lifetime achievement

Eligibility: senior scientist whose scientific contributions are profound, and who has broadly influenced colleagues and students.

Monetary value: US\$1000 and a plaque

The Hamilton Award was established in 2006 in memory of William D. Hamilton (1936-2000) to honour a senior scientist for their lifetime contribution and achievements to the biology of social insects. In addition to their profound contributions to the scientific field, awardees are also acknowledged for the influence they have had on colleagues and students. The award is presented at the quadrennial Congress of the IUSSI. The successful candidate's acceptance speech will be published in *Insectes Sociaux*.

West-Eberhard Prize for a Junior Scientist

Eligibility: 5 years full-time equivalent post PhD defence.

Monetary value: US\$750

Selection process: The Marie-Jane West-Eberhard Award was established in 2018 and will for the first time be awarded in 2022. Members of IUSSI sections in good standing should nominate promising junior scientists from any section to represent those sections. Junior members of IUSSI sections in good standing can also self-nominate to their section. If necessary, each section will rank candidates and put forward the highest-ranked candidate. The Secretary-General will convene a committee of Section Presidents, and this committee will review all valid nominations to identify the winner.

Financial report covering the period January 1 – December 31, 2020

This has been a very simple year financially. The only additional transaction has been the transfer of left-over funds from IUSSI2018 to the organising committee of IUSSI2022. The accounts have been approved by the Financial Subcommittee.

Accounting December 31, 2020

		Savings	Checking	Total
Beginning Balance		\$998.36	\$108,120.00	\$109,118.36
INCOME	Annual income		\$ 44,341.69	
	Interest	0.19		
Total		\$998.55	\$ 152,461.69	
EXPENSES	Government fees		\$ (100.00)	
	Best paper award		\$ (1,000.00)	
	Office		\$ (1,204.96)	
	Service charges		\$ (45.00)	
	Surplus IUSSI Brazil to IUSSI NAS		\$ (12,312.88)	
Total			\$ (14,662.84)	
Ending Balance		\$998.55	\$ 137,798.85	\$138,797.40

Respectfully submitted,



Madeleine Beekman, Secretary-General

Insectes Sociaux, February 2021 update by Miriam Richards, Editor-in-Chief

Greetings everyone!

We processed 151 manuscripts in 2020, up from 146 in 2019. However, the increase is bigger than it seems, because of a change in accounting – the 2019 numbers were based on about 16 months worth of submissions. So, in 2020 we had many more papers. We accepted 54 of them giving us an acceptance rate of about 33%. Many rejections are desk rejections when authors do not know the difference between social and asocial insects.

Springer allocates 15,000 euro to the journal, of which 11,840 euro will be paid to the Associate Editors. The social media editors together are paid 1500. No reviews were published in 2020, so no fees are due to authors.

Remember Insectes Sociaux's new venture: the publication of occasional special issues devoted to some particular theme focussed on arthropod social biology. Special issues will be organized by a Guest Editor, with help from Springer editorial staff. Anyone who has an idea for a special issue, please feel free to email me directly (mrichards@brocku.ca). I would love to hear your ideas, even if you do not want to take on the role of Guest Editor.

Cheers,
Miriam

IUSSI2022 Update from the organising committee

We are finally ready to share our call for symposium proposals for the San Diego congress! The congress web site is now up; that is where people will submit their proposals: <http://burkclients.com/IUSSI/meetings/2022/site/index.html>.

Call for Symposium Proposals

2022 IUSSI International Congress
San Diego, California
July 3 – 7, 2022

Submission deadline: Friday, May 31, 2021

The Organizing Committee for the 19th IUSSI International Congress is pleased to invite proposals for meeting symposia. These symposia will account for half of the talks presented at the Congress, with the remainder consisting of contributed talks organized by the Program Committee into thematic sessions. Speakers who commit to a symposium should be aware that everyone is limited to a single oral presentation at the Congress. Organizers should inform invited speakers of this rule and also that the Congress can offer no financial support to symposium participants.

Symposium format

Symposia will consist of up to nine 15-minute presentations. They will begin and end with 5-minute introductory and concluding remarks by the organizers. To encourage synthesis, organizers may also devote one or more 15-minute slots to a panel discussion or other means of encouraging interaction among speakers and with the audience.

Proposals must include the following:

- Symposium title
- Names of Chair and Co-chair(s). Two or more organizers are recommended, ideally from different institutions.
- Institutional affiliations and email addresses of Chair and Co-chair(s).
- Brief synopsis (no more than 250 words) explaining the symposium topic and why it is of interest to the IUSSI membership. This should be clearly written for a broad audience, since it will appear in the conference program and be read by people deciding whether to attend the symposium.
- Brief justification (no more than 250 words) explaining how the proposal meets the review criteria (given below).
- A list of invited speakers, indicating which have been contacted and agreed to participate, at least tentatively. The list should include their current institutional affiliation and career stage (i.e., student, postdoc, junior scientist, senior scientist). Organizers may invite as many as nine speakers, or they may leave some slots open to fill later with speakers selected from submitted abstracts.

Selection criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by the Program Committee, who will inform organizers of their decisions by August 1, 2021. Successful proposals will then be announced on the congress web site. Proposals will be assessed using the following criteria.

- Scientific significance and interest to the IUSSI membership.
- Timeliness and novelty.
- Integration of multiple disciplines or fields of interest.
- Integration of symposium participants. This includes the complementarity of invited speakers, as well as any approaches (such as panel discussions) designed to encourage interaction among speakers and with the audience.
- Inclusion of a diversity of speakers, in terms of career stage, institution, gender, seniority, nationality, and other axes of diversity.

In selecting symposia, the program committee will also strive for a balanced selection of scientific topics that covers the full breath of the society's interests.

Proposal submission

Proposals must be submitted using the form at this link:

<http://burkclients.com/IUSSI/meetings/2022/site/symposia.html>

Please direct any questions to Stephen Pratt, the chair of the Program Committee, at stephen.pratt@asu.edu.

Section meetings

The **Australasian Section** 2021 meeting will be held in association with the Australian Entomological Society meeting, Adelaide December 5-8. The 3rd Bee Meeting will be held at Macquarie University in mid July.

The **Italian Section** will organize the 11th Student meeting in April 2021. The meeting is completely free of charge and exclusively dedicated to Bachelor, Master and PhD students (and organized by them). The main aim is to provide them with an opportunity to refine the communication of their own scientific results in a very informal atmosphere.

This year the meeting will be hosted by Martina Ghizzoni and Enrico Schifani, from University of Parma.

The meeting will be held online (and in Italian). Those who are interested can contact the Section secretary for further information at [david.baracchi\(at\)unifi.it](mailto:david.baracchi@unifi.it)

The **North-European Section** held an online meeting last December. A report by Emiline Favreau (UCL) and Liz Bates (Cornwall College Newquay) follows.

Global IUSSI newsletter blog

Online Winter Meeting of North-European section of IUSSI report
By *Emeline Favreau (UCL)* and *Liz Bates (Cornwall College Newquay)*.

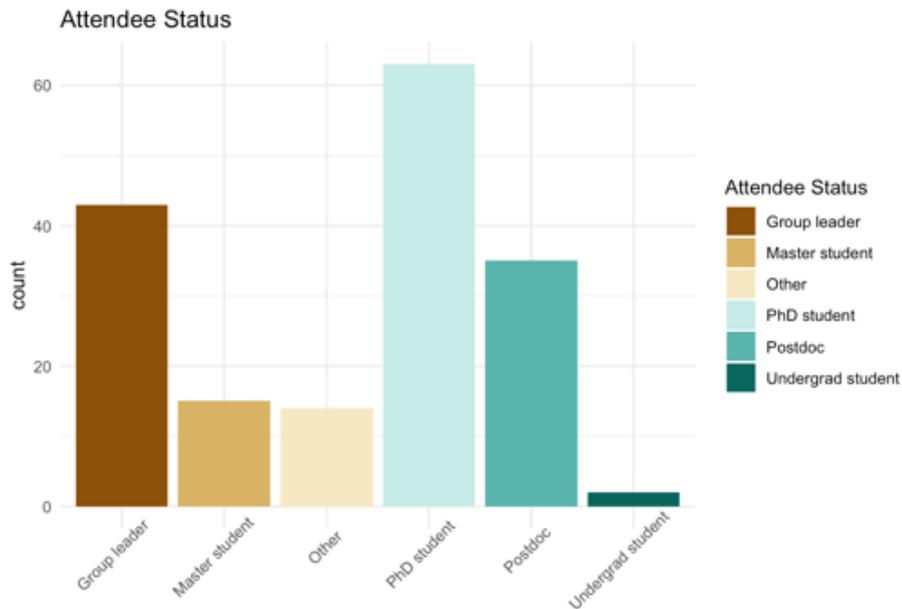


Due to the pandemic, it was unfortunately not possible to meet up in person during the yearly winter meeting for our North-European section. However, due to a lovely and talented organizing committee, we were still able to have three days of great talks, posters and even social events! An added bonus of the online format allowed us to have attendees and presenters from around the world from Asia, Africa, South America, USA and Middle East as well as from Europe and the UK (with no air travel!). From September to December 2020, a small team regularly met to find six plenary speakers, to select high quality abstracts to represent the diversity of submissions for contributed talks and virtual posters and to manage the logistics for more than 200 registered members. This also included designing flyers, writing an Online Code of Conduct heavily based on the International Code of Conduct kindly shared by Chelsea Cook, coming up with a pub quiz with a fantastic Pub Master David Nash, distributing Certificates of attendance for students.



A combination of Zoom, Slack, Twitter (https://twitter.com/IUSSI_NWES #IUSSIOne2020) and Youtube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1Hr003ATIXakc_Zzg7ESQA)

made sure that everyone could follow the presentations, but also allowed for private meetings and hangouts. We hosted the talks on Zoom, where each member could join and listened to the plenary speakers, followed by 15-minutes talks and flash-talks for posters in animated GIF format. This was followed by a longer session with breakout rooms, where each poster presenter could share their poster on the screen, and the audience could navigate between breakout rooms (like one would do in a poster hall, minus the free wine). The Slack forum was really useful to catch-up with old and new friends, as well as carrying on the conversations, Q&A, sharing posters and broadcasting important information about Zoom logistics. Several channels were created, including a research sharing page and a career-job notice board where PIs posted PhD adverts, postdocs posted “looking for a job”. The forum remains available since the meeting, allowing members to reach out to colleagues for more social insect conversations! Our Twitter account was broadcasting live each talk and poster, including when the researchers’ handles as to increase their network on this social media. This was further expanded once the meeting was finished and each talk was posted on YouTube, enabling an even larger audience to our meeting.



On the last day, we awarded four students with prizes for excellent presentations: Jason Rissanen (University of Helsinki, Best Poster) and Mille Bolander (University of Copenhagen, Runner-up Poster), Jack Beresford (University of Helsinki, Best Talk) and Gemma Nydia Villagomez (University of Wuerzburg, Runner-up Talk). This rounded off a fantastic meeting. It was great to see both many familiar and many new faces, showing that we continue to carry out vibrant social insect research across the section, regardless of our geographical location and career level. It enabled researchers from four continents to join our meeting, drastically reducing our carbon footprint while increasing our network horizon. Although we hope to meet physically in future we are also considering having an online component for the accessibility it provides for our attendees.