

EBI NETWORK SEMINAR SERIES (EBINS)

AN INITIATIVE FROM THE EBI STUDENT BODY

What is the EBI?

The Earth & Biosphere Institute (EBI) is an inter-disciplinary group of researchers who have joined together to provide a holistic approach across the life and physical science divide. The EBI brings together previously disparate research groups within the university to provide an internationally-leading Institute focused on investigation of the effects of environmental change at a wide range of spatial and temporal scales. The EBI is made up of the Schools of Biology, Earth and Environment and Geography, and aims to build on existing strengths and to develop new research synergies both within the EBI and across the University of Leeds, and also with groups from outside the university. The EBI currently has more than more than 60 academic staff and funds 10 full-time PhD students with inter-disciplinary projects.

Why an EBI Network Seminar?

With the establishment of the EBI, the infrastructure is in place for a truly inter-disciplinary institute. However, even while EBI members are highly successful and internationally acclaimed, formal collaborations between them beyond those created by EBI studentships are still uncommon (for instance, few papers listed in <http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/ebi/publications.htm> are co-authored by different EBI members). Partly, it is because of the virtual nature of the EBI and the lack of formal structures where potential collaborators from constituent departments can come together for social and academic networking.

We propose the EBI network seminar series to provide a formal platform for the exchange of ideas and knowledge. The seminars will run on a monthly basis, alternating between Biology, SEE and Geography. The seminars will have two primary aims. Firstly to provide a platform to disseminate information regarding existing research within the institute, and secondly to provide a means of strengthening existing and forging new inter-disciplinary links and research opportunities. The seminars will be inclusive and

open to all post-graduate students and staff within the three schools with an interest in inter-disciplinary research. The format is open for discussion, but would most probably be based around a student/staff speaker with occasional guests from outside of the University. There is also scope for more informal workshop and/or discussion sessions based around a particular theme. For instance, we could pick topics such as 'Ecosystem Services', 'Biodiversity Conservation', or 'Carbon cycling and sequestration' and bring in speakers from Biology, Geography and SEE, who are actively involved in research in this area, but use very different approaches, and then open for discussion on how the same topic is approached from different perspectives/different fields.

When?

To launch the EBI Network Seminar we will be running an **introductory event**. While this event would primarily be a social evening, it will begin with a showcasing of the mission and the work that is being done at the EBI. The success of EBINS (and ultimately of the EBI) will depend on the active participation of staff and students across all constituent departments. **Your attendance at the launch event and your comments and suggestions at this stage would be much appreciated, and will ensure we create a vibrant and inclusive new forum to the benefit of all.**

When: Dec 10th, 2007, 5.00PM

Where: Geography East Lecture Theatre (talks)
Geography Main Foyer (dinner and social)

Event Schedule:

5.00 PM: Prof Michael Krom, EBI Director: 'The EBI; where we are and where we want to go'.

5.15 PM: Dr. Andy Dougill, SRI: 'Research without boundaries: Trans-disciplinary reflections'

5.30 PM: Dr. Bill Kunin, IICB: 'Interdisciplinary research & the rural environment: RELU at Leeds'

5.45 PM: Claire McDonald, EBI Senior PhD Student: 'Antarctic Fossil Forests: Attack of the Insects'.

6.00 PM: **Dinner:** An Indian buffet and drinks will be provided**

** Free for students and post-docs

FUTURE MEETINGS

Intended monthly; Themes, speakers, dates and venues will be announced here, WATCH THIS SPACE!!!!