

Call for an MSc student in Environmental Studies 2022-23

Research context: Nature-experiences are on the decline, but does that mean environmental values are as well? — Where the decrease of experiences of nature is often cited as a cause for dwindling appreciation of nature and consequently less commitment to environmental stewardship, Langemeyer & Calcagni (2022) argue that the internet is an overlooked factor in multiplying nature experiences, creating nature values, and fostering environmental stewardship. With more than half of the global population already using social media, Digital Relational Values understood as fundamental and eudemonic values that are developed within virtual communities, and triggered by indirect experiences of nature in virtual environments might counteract the 'extinction of experiences' of nature (Miller 2005).

Description and objectives of the MSc thesis: The research aims to analyse the production of Digital Relational Values on Facebook. The research will examine digital relational values through qualitative (and potentially quantitative/big data) approaches and support ongoing to research to refine a conceptual and empirical framework of digital relational values.

Requisites of the student: The candidate should be a student of the Master in Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability (MEISAES, ICTA-UAB). She/he must be interested in exploring a new research field and to work with a difficult data source to work with (including critical ethical consideration). Experiences in data science are helpful but not necessary.

Technical details: The thesis will be supervised by Dr Johannes Langemeyer (ICTA).

If you are interested on writing your MSc thesis on this topic, please contact
Johannes.langemeyer@uab.cat

Literature:

Langemeyer, Johannes, and Fulvia Calcagni. 2022. "Virtual Spill-over Effects: What Social Media Has to Do with Relational Values and Global Environmental Stewardship." *Ecosystem Services* 53 (February): 101400. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.ECOSER.2021.101400>.

Miller, James R. 2005. "Biodiversity Conservation and the Extinction of Experience." *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 20 (8): 430–34. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2005.05.013>.