Name of the course: Climate and water and Soil fertility sections journal club

ECTS credits: 1,5

Course parameters:

Language: English

Level of course: PhD

Study year: 2020

Total work load: ca. 46 hours i.e. 2Q x 23 (including preparatory reading, lectures and discussions during the course)

Capacity limits: 10-15 participants

Objectives of the course: The objective of the journal club is to foster scientific ideas and cooperation between PhD students and postdocs in the section, using a common platform of presenting, analyzing and discussing research topics and methods, papers or data within agroecology science. The course aims to facilitate/improve participants’ ability to 1) review already published scientific papers, and 2) the participants' own research, both by presentation and discussion together with colleagues. The journal club should help the participants to stay updated with the recent methods and results in agroecology and also to get to know “who works what and why” within the section for better networking and cooperation. The students will ideally learn how to critically analyse data and apply published/new methods to their own research. Moreover, depending on the need, some of the sessions will be dedicated to paper writing and poster preparation. The students will have a chance to interact and support each other in the process of writing manuscripts and data analysis. The course targets PhDs and postdocs, however, MScs and other colleagues/short term visitors are very welcomed as well.

Learning outcomes and competences: After completing the course the students should be able to:

- Describe and present research method and results of scientific papers
- Critically (constructively) discuss research papers, including their limitations
- Formulate possible future approaches for method improvement and/or possible application to their own research
- Network better with colleagues

Compulsory program: Readings of all the presented and discussed papers, preparation of presentations and active participation.
Course contents:

**Out-of-class preparation**

1. Searching for the most recent journal papers related to the student’s research area.

2. Preparation for the paper presentation (of the students’ choice: ppt, printouts, white board).

3. Reading of all the papers to be presented.

**In-class activities**

4. Brief paper presentation (ca 30 min) by the participant.

5. Formulation of critical questions for the method and results of the presented paper.

6. Active discussion (ca 30 min) by all members with suggestion on possible improvements or application for participant’s own research

Prerequisites: Ph.D. students from Agroecology

Name of instructor: Jeroen/Kiril/Ji, AGRO-AU

Type of course/teaching methods: Out-of-class reading, in-class presentations and discussions.

Literature: The students choose the papers/topics most relevant for their research.

Course homepage: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17_OfqO1ilay1S39j0kE72oyGjQGxkf_w9Ju8al87ULw/edit#gid=1095126659

Course assessment: Obtained or did not obtained ECTS credits, based on active participation

Provider: AGRO-AU

Special comments on this course: none

Time: 25-26 sessions, i.e., 12-13 sessions once a week for two semesters.

Place: AU-Foulum

Registration: for registration or questions please email Jeroen jwmp@agro.au.dk or Kiril kiril.manevski@agro.au.dk or Ji Chen ji.chen@agro.au.dk
Short report:

A short questionnaire was sent to 24 current JC users. After 2-3 workdays, the response rate was 40%, with almost 90% showing positive reply for the journal club to continue, mostly “business as usual”, although some interesting comments were also given that will be considered at the start of 2020. The results of the questionnaire are shown below and can also be found here.

**Should be continue conducting the Journal club?**

9 responses

![Pie chart showing 88.9% Yes, 11.1% No.]

**If “Yes”, how do we continue?**

9 responses

- As it is/was (business as usual)
- More serious
- I think it is a pity without having it, since it is a great chance to practice, discuss, and share ideas with all the juniors in...
- JC is a great platform for junior researchers to exchange knowledge a...
- Biweekly meetings would fit my workload better
- Include also Soil Physics and Systems...