

Hi everyone, I'm Kiona Ogle, program chair of the ESA Meetings Committee. For the past year, my colleagues and I have been busy developing the program for the 2020 ESA Annual Meeting. Even though we're going to be holding an all-virtual meeting, we're still going to have almost all of the great content that we had planned, and I'd like to tell you a little bit more about that here.

We'll still be having four full days of the meeting, from August 3rd to August 6th. All four days are packed full, with more than 3,000 scientific presentations available on-demand both during and after the meeting, and there's also the chance to interact with the presenters via asynchronous question and answer time. We'll also have recorded plenary talks with live Q&A, a daily live panel on a hot topic in ecology (stay tuned for those!), virtual exhibits and networking opportunities, and plenty of career development activities.

The Meetings Committee and ESA staff are still working on the platform and final program for the meeting, but we can answer a lot of your questions now. First I suggest that you check out the FAQ we developed, which is linked in the description.

Even though we'll be entirely virtual this year, we remain confident that the 2020 ESA Annual Meeting will be a highly dynamic, inspiring, and valuable event in ecology. We hope that the virtual venue will enable even more ecologists to participate in the meeting in some capacity, beyond what would be achievable by an in-person meeting. I also personally see this as an opportunity for ESA to explore and hone virtual options for the Annual Meeting, and hope that we can take what we learn from the 2020 Annual Meeting to continue to develop and deploy virtual content for future meetings, with one goal being to increase accessibility of meeting content and engage a broader diversity of ecologists.

Please check the meeting website in the description for regular updates, and to register for the meeting.

I look forward to testing out those virtual options and to connecting with you in August! Until then, have a great summer!