

Ecosphere Editor-in-Chief Job Description – 01 June 2022

Position Summary

The Editor-in-Chief (EiC) of *Ecosphere*, an Open Access publication, sets the editorial direction, manages of an expansive Editorial Board, supports a growing journal, and is responsible for implementing the editorial policies. The EiC is expected to have a broad knowledge of ecology and affiliate fields, and a clearly articulated vision for the journal. *Ecosphere* is owned by the Ecological Society of America (ESA) and this individual will be expected to uphold the [Society's Code of Ethics](#). A core value of the ESA is to foster diversity in all its programs, and the EiC will embody this core value of the Society and reinforce the ESA's commitment to fairness and inclusion in the peer review process. All Editors-in-Chief of ESA journals serve at the pleasure of the Ecological Society of America's Governing Board and must be members of the Society.

Responsibilities

The EiC of *Ecosphere* will maintain oversight of the submission and review of manuscripts and will set the journal's standards for manuscript acceptance, while ensuring a rapid and fair peer-review process.

The EiC will be responsible for cultivating and overseeing the performance of a diverse and global Editorial Board that includes 10 Deputy-Editors-in-Chief, and related Subject Matter Editors. With the input of the Deputy-Editors-in-Chief, the EiC will develop a pool of reviewers representing the broad scope of the publication. *Ecosphere* has focus areas each with a responsible Deputy-Editor-in-Chief making Ecosphere the largest and broadest ESA journal comprehensively cover ecology and related areas. Additionally, the EiC will serve as an arbiter in cases of controversy between authors, reviewers, or editors. In collaboration with the ESA Governing Board, the EiC will continue to evolve and adapt the editorial strategy to further enhance *Ecosphere's* editorial quality, relevance, online usage, impact factor, and financial stability. The EiC will be committed to equity and inclusion in all aspects of the publications process and is responsible for:

- Attracting submissions from a global set of authors representing a diverse ecology community and intersections with emerging disciplines
- Establishing appropriate and well-defined peer-review procedures and ensuring an unbiased and faithfully executed review process
- Setting standards for desk rejections and work with the family of ESA journals and the Wiley network for transfer opportunities
- Working with ESA's publisher, Wiley, and the ESA journal Editors-in-Chief to address barriers and create opportunities for equity, diversity and inclusion for authors in publishing Open Access
- Contributing to ESA publishing leadership together with the Publishing Director and Publications Committee by working on cross-cutting journal issues
- Delivering adequate inventory of high-quality manuscripts to maintain a pipeline of accepted papers and an ongoing financial stability for the publication
- Working with the ESA Executive Director and Director of Publishing to create a sustainable and effective editorial board structure to support the demands and strategy for the publication.
- Maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of each author's work while that work is under peer review

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- Corresponding with authors, editors, reviewers and readers regarding peer review and/or manuscript decisions
- Handling incidences of error and allegations of misconduct, while keeping the Society and Publisher informed, as appropriate

Each Editor-in-Chief of the ESA journals participates in regular publishing strategy meetings and is part of the Editorial Leadership Team with the other ESA Journal EiCs and Director of Publishing. They also chair regular Editorial Board meetings for their journal. The EiC will report annually to the Governing Board and Publications Committee regarding the editorial performance of *Ecosphere*, including key publishing statistics such as time to first decision, time to publication, and impact factor, as well as notable editorial activities, significant publishing events, or articles that made a significant impact on the field.

The EiC will serve as an ex-officio member of the ESA Publications Committee and is expected to work in a collegial manner with the Governing Board, Publications Committee, Executive Director, Society staff, and the Publisher. The Editor-in-Chief is supported by the ESA publications team in Ithaca, NY. A Peer Review Manager, Pre-production Manager, and support staff will manage the administrative aspects of the peer-review process and will assist authors and reviewers as required. The ESA's Publishing Director will serve as a key resource for the EiC and will provide requested reports, discuss new ideas, respond to requests for policy and procedural changes and enhancements, and serve as liaison with Wiley, ESA's publisher.

Qualifications and Required Skills

ESA is seeking a dynamic individual interested in innovations in publishing and Open Access to lead *Ecosphere* into the future. The Editor-in-Chief must possess the energy and vision to sustain and further develop the journal as the leading voice in ecology. The new EiC of *Ecosphere* will:

- Be an active researcher and recognized expert in the ecological sciences with a broad knowledge of the field
- Be conversant on issues and approaches around avoiding bias in evaluation and editorial processes
- Have a background that reflects high standards in research and publication
- Be able to attract respected experts to serve on *Ecosphere's* Editorial Board
- Possess significant editorial experience with a scholarly journal and an understanding of the online editorial process
- Be fair and trustworthy while possessing the ability to make difficult decisions
- Be interested in the evolving business models and relevant technological advances in publishing
- Have a willingness to explore the use of social media and technology tools as a means of enhancing journal usage and author interest
- Demonstrate strong leadership, organizational and communication skills, with a focus on service and positive author experiences
- Preferred: Have experience or understanding of Open Access publishing, in terms of the complexity of the author payment process, OA licenses and competitive journals

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- Preferred: Experience working with complex and large Editorial Board Structures

The ESA expects that the EiC will perform the editorial obligations in a manner consistent with the highest standards of professionalism, competence, integrity, and ethics, and not engage in any conduct that may bring harm or disrepute upon the journal or the Society. This position will involve travel to the annual Publications Strategy Meeting, as well as the ESA Annual Meeting.

Term and Compensation

The Editor-in-Chief will serve an initial 3-year term, assuming full responsibility as EiC of *Ecosphere* on January 1, 2023. At the discretion of the ESA Governing Board, the EiC's contract may be renewed. During a 4-month transition period that will begin in September 2022, the incoming EiC will work with ESA staff and the current editor to learn about the journal, its processes, and workflows. This position is compensated at the equivalent of approximately 15% of a full-time professor's salary.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit the following materials to the ESA's Search Committee:

- A current curriculum vitae
- A letter of interest that summarizes the candidate's qualifications, including relevant journal experience
- *Ecosphere* has a large, complex, and multi-disciplinary board. Provide a vision statement for your goals with *Ecosphere* describing your management philosophy and management strategy for this board considering a highly competitive and volume intensive Open Access environment.

Application materials should be sent to editorsearch@esa.org. Review of applications **will begin July 1st, 2022**. We welcome applicants from diverse and international backgrounds. All applications will be strictly confidential. The ESA will acknowledge receipt of applications.

Please send questions about the position to editorsearch@esa.org. An ESA representative will respond to your inquiries. No phone calls and no recruiters, please.

About *Ecosphere*

Ecosphere was started in 2010 and is **the journal covering all of ecology**. It is ESA's broad and expansive open access journal covering many subdisciplines across ecology. It is comprised of 12 focus areas with their own editorial boards and submissions: Agroecosystems, Coastal and Marine Ecology, Disease Ecology, Eco-Education, Ecology of Critical Zones, *Ecosphere* Naturalist, Emerging Technologies, Faunal Studies, Freshwater Ecology, General Ecology, Macrosystems Ecology, Methods, Tools, and Technologies, and Socio-Ecological Systems.

Ecosphere publishes original research articles, concepts and theory, synthesis and integration, innovative viewpoints, and special features. The journal has continued to publish an increasing number of articles each year and is currently at approximately 500 per year. *Ecosphere* has Impact factor:3.171 and in the 2021 Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate Analytics) was ranked 62/166 (Ecology). See <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/21508925>