

**CNAES**  
**HQP Research & Collaborative Exchange**  
**Funding**  
*Visit report*

**1. Exchange information**

Visitor: **Alex Yeung, PhD Candidate, University of British Columbia, CNAES Project II-2**

Supervisor Visitor: John Richardson

Conference: **Ecological Society of America (ESA) 2017 Annual Meeting; Portland, Oregon, United States of America, August 6 -11, 2017**

**2. Objective/Purpose**

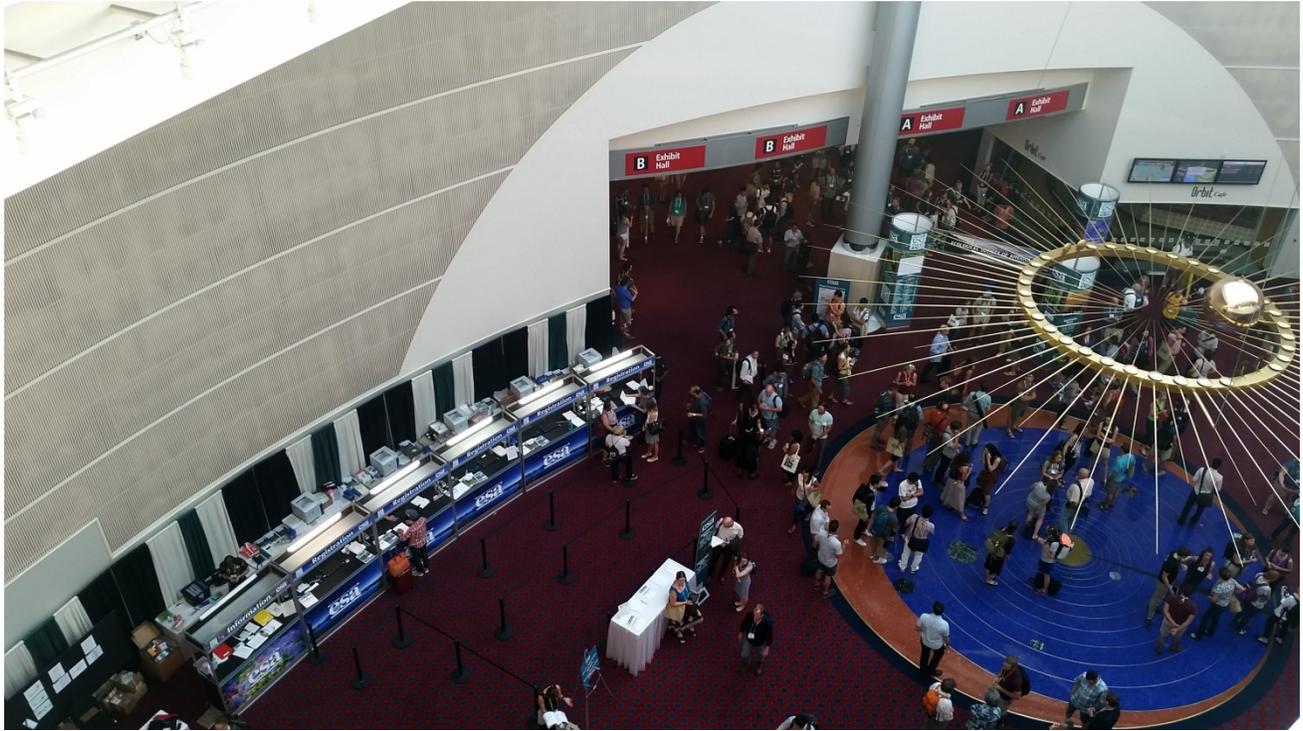
The main objective of attending this ESA meeting was to present a contributed talk about my latest PhD research on ecohydrology, and its bioassessment implications. Through interacting with a broad audience of scholars in ecology/conservation during my oral presentation and the meeting, I also aimed at having knowledge exchange with them on aquatic ecosystem functioning and services, and also about CNAES.

**3. Description of the visit**

I presented my talk on August 7 in the session 'Detritus and Decomposition', which was entitled 'Hydrology contributes to the inter-annual variability of litter breakdown in forested reference streams: Bioassessment implications'. I highlighted the variability of the importance of hydrologic influences on litter breakdown in headwater streams across sites and geographic regions, and made recommendations on refining region-specific bioassessment criteria that involved the use of breakdown rates. It attracted interest and positive feedback mainly from researchers working on organic matter and carbon cycling in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Throughout the meeting, I had wide exposure to the latest research in ecosystem service science (particularly in the symposium 'Aquatic Ecosystem Services in a Changing World' featuring presentations by numerous CNAES members). Based on my last ESA meeting experience as well as [expert advice](#), this year I got to see many good-quality presentations from sessions centered on ecosystem stability and resilience, ecosystem functions, global environmental change, and stream ecology. In particular, research findings on the impacts of disturbances on the relationships between multiple metrics of ecological stability would be highly relevant to part of my CNAES project. There were many occasions where I interacted with distinguished ecologists and fellow students, including poster sessions, Joint Section (in which I received a student travel award) and Aquatic Ecology section mixers, Rapid Response Team luncheon, etc. As one of the pre-meeting activities, the workshop 'Fitting Non-linear Models in R with the mgcv Package' I registered for was quite well organized, and it enabled me to develop a very essential skill of modelling ecological data which exhibit non-linear behavior through space and time.

Overall, I found my experience of participating in the ESA meeting to be rewarding, in terms of communicating my research findings, gaining insights from relevant presentations within my field of study, and networking with scholars from different countries. Therefore, the objectives of attending this meeting were well accomplished, and it went beyond my expectations.



**Ecologists exchanging ideas outside the exhibit hall in Portland Convention Centre**