ECSA CONFERENCE // 2018

MANAGING EMOTIONS IN LONG TERM CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS

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Collective training , Alpages sentinelles - G. Loucougaray

CONTEXT: LONG TERM RESEARCH

- **Rising emphasis** on **long term monitoring and research**
- **Long term Citizen Science (CS)** projects are **increasingly encouraged**
- **Methodological** (Lindenmayer & Likens, 2009), **financial** (Caughlan et Oakley, 2001) + **affective** dimensions of CS projects are challenged by their long-term perspective

Collective check of observer bias during a collective field training of the biomass measurement protocol – Alpages sentinelles project

CONTEXT: EMOTIONS IN SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

- Role of **emotions** in **scientific activities**

  (Parker & Hackett, 2012; Lorimer, 2008; Head & Harada, 2017; Brunet, 2018)

- Emotions are « **expressed feelings**, being both **conscious** and **experienced**. Although emotions emerge from feelings, and represent **personal experience**, they are **socially constructed**, through language and other representational practices » (Pile, 2010:9)

- Emotions can be managed (Hochshild, 1983; Head & Harada, 2017)

Gardeners of the city of Grenoble during a collective training session

EMOTIONS: SOME EXAMPLES

- **Positive emotions**
  - **Hope** - **excitement** related to the collaborative dimension of the project
  - **Pleasure to reflect** on the functioning of complex systems
- **Negative emotions**
  - **Weariness** toward the repetition of a tedious protocol
  - **Frustration** – **disappointment** due to perceived lack of consideration and support from the hierarchy

Feedback meeting in the Vanoise national park – Alpages sentinelles project

Rangers of the Ecrins national Park training for the Biomass measurement– Alpages sentinelles project

Gardeners from the city of Grenoble identifying a butterfly during a collective training session

METHOD

- Ongoing Phd research (Oct. 2017 -)
- Analysis of two **emotional situations** and how they are **managed** collectively, based on:
  - 10 in-depth interviews
  - Participatory observation: annual meetings, feed-back, team meetings, field sessions

Technical meeting of a project gathering the managers of five alpine CS projects (including the alpages sentinelles project)

Rangers of the Ecrins national Park training for the Biomass measurement– Alpages sentinelles project

Shared reading of the field sheet by the gardeners from the city of Grenoble – Propage project

METHOD

- Case studies (France)

	Propage (Grenoble)	Alpages sentinelles
What?	Butterfly monitoring	Pastoral systems monitoring: biomass, weather, pastoral practices, farming system
Where?	Urban area	Alpine protected areas
Who?	Volunteers involved through their professional activity	
	Gardeners	Scientists, nature and mountain pasture managers, farmers and shepherds
What for?	Measure the effects of gardening practices on biodiversity	Produce knowledge about the capacity of ecosystems and farming practices to respond and adapt to climate change

Collective training in the field, Grenoble – Propage project

Collective visit of a summer pasture, Alpages sentinelles project

RESULTS: Identifying and accounting for complex sets of emotions

Situation 1: Propage

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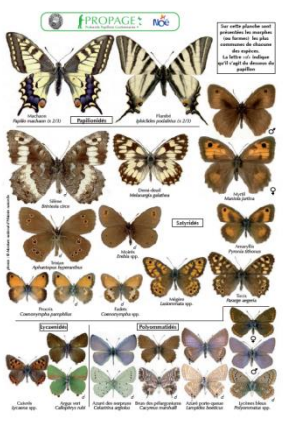
➡ **Adjustment of the protocol :**

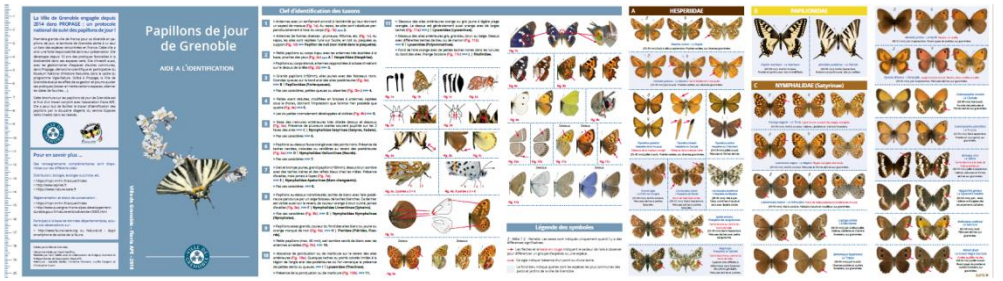
– More species

– Creation of technical means

to collect and store more precise data



Original identification guide



Adjusted identification guide

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→Maintain and feed **pleasure** of learning and **satisfaction** of gaining new competences

→Enhance **confidence** that the data collection protocol will yield useful results

→Enhance **feeling of being credible**

→Generate **pride**

Gardeners from the city of Grenoble using the adjusted identification guide

Gardeners using the adjusted data entry tab

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- **Feeling of attachment** to an ambitious project
- **Hope** to improve understanding of complex social-ecological processes

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- Global **weariness**
- **Tediousness** of fieldwork
- Data quantity & heterogeneity → **feeling of confusion**
- Data collection seen as an imposed norm generating a **sense of meaninglessness and annoyance** ("data collection for the sake of data collection")

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- Subsequent **selection of relevant data to be further collected**
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→ Enhance
  → **meaningfulness** of the involvement in the project
  → **confidence** in the project's ability to produce understanding and knowledge beyond databases
  → **credibility**

→ Reduce **tediousness** of fieldwork

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- Emotions generated by the long term perspective of CS projects are plural and ambivalent.
- Beyond a more obvious work on emotions, e.g. thanking participants for their contribution or disseminating results, project coordinators also deal with emotions through a seemingly purely technical work on protocols.
- Identifying and managing the participants' emotions is an important part of the work of long-term CS project coordinators, requiring specific skills and competencies.
- An emotional approach allows a better understanding of the work on data collection and analysis protocols and of the long-term involvement of CS participants.

Collective training in the field, Grenoble – Propage project

Collective visit of a summer pasture, Alpages sentinelles project

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Thank you for your attention

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