

<b>Julián Daniel Mijailoff</b>		
Affiliation	National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) - Research Lab in Ecological and Environmental Systems (LISEA), La Plata National University	
Session Chair		
Presentations	Session 6.2	<i>Individual presentations: Actors, conflicts and networks in forestry.</i>

*Abstract Session 6.2 – Social Network Analysis in plantation forests governance: comparing issues and actors in multilevel networks in Argentina and Uruguay as competing countries.*

Plantation forests are expanding in the southern hemisphere resulting in one of the main land use changes. The governance of these forests is complex and involves a large set of private and public actors from multiple levels and a multiplicity of interconnected issues emerging as content of political negotiations. Policy network approaches have been adopted to investigate such complex policy systems analyzing actors' coalitions around different governance issues and providing insights on policy making processes and implementation. Hence, the aim of our study was to identify policy communities of actors and issues within the forestry governance system as well as crucial actors with structural power roles, comparing unitary and federal settings. The cases of Argentina and Uruguay were selected as two global south competing neighbouring countries with social similarities and analogous ecological conditions for plantation forests' establishment but different political systems. Social network analysis was used relying on a two-mode policy actors and issues network approach. Data collection for mapping actors and issues was based on extensive document analysis and in-depth interviews. Communities of actors-issues were inductively identified by maximizing network's modularity as a clustering measure and crucial actors were detected through degree and betweenness centrality measures. Our results showed that federal policy networks in Argentina are more pluralist and complex with greater density than unitary systems in Uruguay. While state actors remain crucial, forest-based industries, private landowner associations and MNC are decisive actors in policy-making processes. These results provide a basis for further qualitative research regarding crucial actor's power attribute and network coalition's interactions assessing network dynamics and boundaries influence.

*Co-author: Dr. Sarah Lilian Burns*