

EDITORIAL

Rapid publication and broad communication of Soil Organisms

Soil ecology has become a highly dynamic field of research. This requires not only the rapid publication of scientific findings, but also the broad communication of their implications. At Soil Organisms, we now introduce two major developments that are intended to facilitate both tasks and consolidate the journal as a unique outlet in soil ecology.

First, from now on, we will publish all accepted papers as soon as they are in their final shape as *'online first'*. This is important because Soil Organisms has three issues per year, and we would like to offer fast publication to all authors. We build on a highly responsive and active community of editors and reviewers, and we can now reflect their fast, high-quality reviews in the rapid publication of all accepted contributions.

Second, we are very happy to announce that we complemented our editorial board with a new position: Dr Monica Farfan is the new *'Science Communications Editor'* for Soil Organisms. You may know Monica from her time as the Executive Director of the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI) (2020-2023), the Science Policy Coordinator for the Soils for Europe (SOLO; soils4europe.eu) project funded by the European Horizon, or as a Scientific Coordinator of the Soil Biodiversity Observation Network (Soil BON) at the German Centre of Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) in Leipzig, Germany. Her first career, academic and professional, was fine art; printmaking and painting. Her new role will be at the intersection of soil biodiversity science, science policy, and communication, contributing to the growth and uniqueness of Soil Organisms to the soil biodiversity community.

Soil Organisms strives to provide you with unique and helpful aspects of the journal for our reader community. With the creation of a Science Communications Editor position, we are excited to introduce other new

developments in the journal that we think are atypical, pretty cool, and will be welcomed by the readers and authors of the journal. We introduce a new featured section titled *'Communications & Interests'*. This section is a special offering that focuses on the creators, communication experts, and educators, amongst others – the opportunities are endless! - who are developing imagery, visualization techniques, historical understanding, creative writings, and many other contributions to the understanding of soil organisms and their place in the environment and for humans beyond primary research. Our goal is to highlight those who are finding beauty, raising awareness, educating, and learning how soil organisms have been understood by human throughout time. And we are looking for contributions! Moreover, we will communicate the conclusions and implications of selected papers through the NEW Soil Organisms journal account on X (@soilorganismsj) to introduce the relevance of soil biodiversity and ecology to a broad public audience. More ideas are currently explored – so, stay tuned!

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