

SEMINAR SERIES 2016

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Biological diversity, particularly across species, has been thoroughly associated with the functioning of ecosystems. Within species biodiversity, particularly of commonly occurring species, has been a more recent focus on biodiversity and ecosystem function (BEF) studies. Shifts in biodiversity, across and within plant species, can lead to changes in key ecosystem processes such as the decomposition (decay) of organic matter and overall storage of such matter in soils. Our lab group aims to understand how shifts in plant genotype (within species) and plant species (across species) dominance alters ecosystem carbon dynamics ranging from whole ecosystem CO₂ and H₂O fluxes to soil CO₂ dynamics; our work takes places across three ecosystems including subalpine meadows, temperate grasslands, and tropical savannas. We address key questions in the context of BEF and global changes (climatic change and invasive species) with the use of field observations and

experiments, greenhouse mesocosms and laboratory incubations that allow us to document patterns and investigate underlying processes.

Understanding the consequences of shifts in plant biodiversity, within and across species, to alter the functioning of terrestrial ecosystems.

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