

CNAES
HQP Research & Collaborative Exchange
Funding
Visit report

1. Exchange information

Visitor: **Dr. Stephanie Tomscha, Post-doctoral Fellow, Theme II**

Supervisor: **Dr. Sarah Gergel**

Conference:

**United States Association of Landscape Ecology,
Chicago, Illinois, USA**

April 8th-12th

2. Objective/Purpose

The purpose of our trip the US-IALE conference in Chicago was to share our participatory mapping research conducted as part of the Canadian Network for Aquatic Ecosystem Services and to network with other researchers who share our same approaches. To do this, Sarah Gergel and I organized a symposium on Participatory Mapping and Ecosystem Services. I moderated and presented at this symposium, and we were invited to edit a special issue in the journal “Land” based on presentations at this symposium.

3. Description of the visit

At the US-IALE conference, I had the opportunity to organize, moderate, and present at our symposium “Participatory mapping for understanding landscape change and ecosystem services”. Our symposium consisted of 10 speakers who conducted research using the spatial knowledge of people. We are currently accepting submissions to the special issue in LAND, which resulted from this symposium. https://www.mdpi.com/journal/land/special_issues/us-iale.

Our symposium provided an important forum, which brought together researchers from across the world. To unify the presentations in our symposium, we had each researcher present a slide on the following question “What is the future of participatory mapping and geospatial citizen science?”, which facilitated discussion among participants. CNAES benefited by showcasing some of our interdisciplinary research on aquatic ecosystem services, which takes into account the spatial preferences of stakeholders for the use of aquatic ecosystem services using both biophysical and social science approaches. This symposium extended our network of collaborators to include North American researchers with expertise in participatory mapping, allowing me to connect with researchers in my sub-discipline.



Stephanie Tomscha and the Chicago skyline.



US-IALE conference venue, Chicago.