

This week for Ecology Reading Group Abstract Hunt!

We will all be in charge of discussion, and I (Nora) will bring snacks.

Your assignment

1. pick one recent issue of a journal aimed at a fairly broad audience (e.g. Ecology, Am Nat, Ecology Letters, Oecologia, etc.) and skim all the abstracts of the papers in that issue.
2. If you see abstracts of papers that you suspect might be of particular interest to someone in Ecology group jot those down to pass on.
3. pick just one abstract that you think is of general interest for some reason, and come prepared to summarize the abstract and say **WHY** you think the paper might be important or interesting to read. Avoid justifications like "I just thought this was kind of cool" and instead aim for "this is a different way to look at a problem" or "a generally useful new method" or "a really great study of an old problem" or "this relates to that other paper we just read".
4. At least skim the whole paper for your chosen abstract. Often people will start to ask questions about the rest of the paper and it helps conversation if you have more depth than the abstract alone.

There are two goals here.

1. leverage the power of the group to efficiently make us all more up-to-date on the literature while identifying papers that one or more of us might want to pursue in depth.
2. practice articulating what makes a paper generally important and useful

See you Friday,