

Prof. Dr. Florian Jeltsch

Personal Details

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Personal Statement

One of the driving questions of my academic career is how mechanisms at the level of single organisms scale up to populations, communities and biodiversity. In the last 30 years I addressed this question in a large number of different (mainly modelling but also empirical) projects covering plant, animal, community and landscape ecology. Sample movement-related projects include the spread of organisms and wildlife diseases, seed dispersal effects on plant communities, and various projects on spatial population, community and biodiversity dynamics in dynamic fragmented landscapes. One important aspect of my work is the refinement and development of ecological theory and concepts as well as modelling strategies. This included several frequently cited papers on spatial savannah theory, landscape structures and biodiversity dynamics under global change impacts or published work on spatial and individual-based modelling approaches and concepts. This general research interest and a longstanding collaboration with Prof. Ran Nathan (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) led to an increasing focus on movement ecology and the question how individual movement and adaptive behaviour are linked to biodiversity changes. This topic is also addressed in the ongoing successful DFG research training group BioMove ('Integrating Biodiversity Research with Movement Ecology in Dynamic Agricultural Landscapes', spokesperson F. Jeltsch).

Academic Training

- 1999 Habilitation in Theoretical Ecology, Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena
- 1992 PhD in Physics/Theoretical Ecology, Philipps-University Marburg
- 1989 MSc. (German Diplom) Physics (Theoretical Ecology), University Marburg

Professional Experience

- 2000-present Professor for Plant Ecology and Conservation Biology, University of Potsdam
- 2002-2004 Head of Botanical Garden, University Potsdam (UP)
- 1992-2000 Scientist at the Department of Ecological Modelling, Centre for Environmental Research UFZ-Leipzig/Halle (Germany)

Cooperations with other institutions and Consultancy in committees (selected)

Speaker DFG Research Training Group BioMove 'Integrating Biodiversity Research with Movement Ecology in Dynamic Agricultural Landscapes' (2015-present)

Co-Director ,Berlin Brandenburg Institute for Advanced Biodiversity Research - BBIB' (2013- present)

Member of review board Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft (2012-2016, review board 207, responsible member for ecology of agricultural landscapes)

Vice-President of the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland (GFÖ) (2008-2014)

Member of the Advisory board of 'The Synthesis Centre for Biodiversity Sciences – sDiv' (2013-2015)

Editorial Activities

Editor-in charge (until 2021) Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics

Editorial Board: Movement Ecology, Basic and Applied Ecology (until 2019)

Professional Services

Dean of the Potsdam Graduate School (PoGS, 2009-2019)

Head of Institute for Biochemistry and Biology, University of Potsdam (2008-2010)

Funding Activities (last 5 years, selected)

DFG Research Training Group RTG 2118. Integrating Biodiversity Research with Movement Ecology in Dynamic Agricultural Landscapes [BioMove] (2015-2024, spokesperson)

Bridging in Biodiversity Science – BIBS (lead PI subproject University Potsdam; BMBF 2016-2021)

Options for sustainable land use adaptations in savanna systems: Chances and risks of emerging wildlife-based management strategies under regional and global change (BMBF 2019-2023, Project co-leader and PI)

Resilience of grassland plant communities as influenced by root herbivores under different land use intensities (DFG 2014-2018, Biodiversity Exploratories)