

Award Winner

Diego Tonolla

Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Water Division, Bern, Switzerland

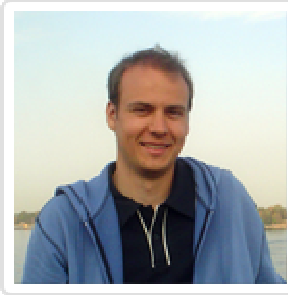


Diego Tonolla holds a Master of Science degree in Environmental Sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) and in 2011 completed his PhD at the Freie Universität (FU) Berlin earning Summa Cum Laude for his dissertation, resulting in 5 publications in top rated ecology journals such as *Ecosystems*, *Limnology & Oceanography*, and *Remote Sensing of Environment*. Moreover, he did a substantial work for a comprehensive book on European Rivers (*Rivers of Europe*, 2009, Elsevier). Between 2005 and 2011 he was employed as a scientific research assistant in the Department of Aquatic Ecology at the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology and in the Department of Shallow Lakes and Lowland Rivers of the Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB) in Berlin. In addition, between 2007 and 2012 he participated in several international collaborative research endeavors with scientists from The University of Montana, Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS), USA and the United States Geological Survey helping expand investigation into the link between hydro-acoustics, flow hydraulics and sediment transport in gravel-bed rivers. His research with thermal infrared imagery for the quantification of spatiotemporal thermal heterogeneity at the floodplain scale and his collaborative effort led Diego to be recognized with an award for the best poster presentation by the International Society for River Science at their 2009 annual conference and a 2012 Schwoerbel-Benndorf „Young Talent Prize“ for outstanding publication from the German Limnological Society. Diego currently is employed as a scientific assistant with the Water Division of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) where he is project- leader for a Swiss-program focused on mitigating negative ecological impacts associated with hydropower generation. Furthermore, he is completing a Certificate of Advanced Studies in River Restoration and continues collaborative scientific engagement with researchers from both the IGB and FLBS. He has developed expertise and interdisciplinary research interests in the field of ecosystem ecology, hydromorphology-ecology linkages, remote sensing (e.g., infrared thermography, hydrophones, acoustic doppler profiler, unmanned aerial systems, etc.) for application in real-time freshwater research, as well as effective management of hydropeaking and river restoration projects.

Subsidiary Prizes

Sami Domisch

Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre (BiK-F) Frankfurt and Senckenberg



Sami Domisch conducted his PhD at the Senckenberg Research Institute, and the Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre (BiK-F) in Frankfurt, Germany. During his PhD studies, Sami investigated the possible effects of climate warming on the distribution of benthic macroinvertebrates using species distribution models. These studies resulted in several ISI papers, including journals such as 'Global Change Biology', 'Freshwater Biology' or 'Nature Climate Change'. He is currently working as a postdoc at BiK-F focusing on climate-change effects on cryptic biodiversity, as well as on the influence of river flow regimes on the occurrence of benthic invertebrates. From autumn 2013 on Sami will continue working on global-change effects on freshwater biota at Yale University.

David X. Soto

University of New Brunswick, Fredericton



David X. Soto is a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Biology at the University of New Brunswick (UNB, Fredericton, Canada) where he commenced the position as Science Manager of the Stable Isotopes in Nature Laboratory (SINLAB) in February 2012. David has obtained a wealth of field/lab and analytical expertise in stable isotope ecology during his research experience, which includes his leadership and participation in several multi-disciplinary projects in Spain and Canada (Environment Canada). His graduate research work at the Center for Advanced Studies of Blanes - Spanish National Research Council (CEAB-CSIC) was dedicated to investigate the food web structure in freshwater ecosystems combining trace metal bioaccumulation and stable isotopes. In 2011, he completed his PhD at the University of Barcelona, Spain. David has been recognized for his PhD thesis and productivity with the 2012 award for the best thesis in limnological research from the Iberian Association of Limnology (AIL). His research interests are currently focused on studying aquatic trophic ecology and animal migration involving stable isotopes, as well as the complexities of hydrogen and oxygen isotope analysis of organic materials.