

### **Education / Qualifications**

- Current position: Head of Research Group Citizen Science Thünen Institut for Biodiversity
- Past position: Postdoctoral Researcher Ecosystem Services, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Germany
- Deputy Head Department Ecosystem Services, German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research
- PhD in Applied Science: University of Canberra, Australia- 2010
- Dipl.- Ing. in Nature Conservation and Landscape Planning: University for Applied Science Bernburg, Germany- 2003

### **National and International memberships and engagements**

- Member of College of Professional Associate of the Institute for Applied Ecology at the University of Canberra (Australia)
- Member of the AG Weissbuch
- Section Editor for Journal Citizen Science Theory and Practice
- Teaching commitments: Nature Conservation, International Nature Conservation, Biodiversity, Citizen Science
- Peer reviewer for international journals (Biological Conservation, Nature and Culture, Biodiversity and Society)
- Invited presenter at international conferences/institutes/universities
- Former Citizen Science facilitator for the German government
- Former and current Citizen Science Project initiator, coordinator and adviser (Golden Sun Moth Count, Insect Mobile, VielfalterGarten)
- Former Project Coordinator "Evaluation of Environmental Programs in National Parks in Germany and the Czech Republic" (Saxon Switzerland, Germany)

### **Institutional committees**

- Expert Panel Klaus Tschira Stiftung for the Science Communication Price "Klartext"
- Advisory panel for BMBF funded Citizen Science Projects
- Member of the advisory board for FONA (BMBF) funded project "Wertvoll"
- Member of the communication group at German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig
- Member of the supervision group at Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) Leipzig
- Coordinator of the German Citizen Science capacity building program "Citizens create knowledge-knowledge creates citizens" (GEWISS)

## **Main research domain**

My research focusses on citizen science, agroecology and biodiversity. I aim to better understand structures and functions of citizen science and gather empirical evidence to prove citizen science as a research field beyond a tool for data acquisition. To this end, I investigated methods in citizen science such as storytelling, analyzed social networks and motivation for involvement in citizen science and provide policy advice to funding bodies regarding citizen science funding opportunities. Further, I am interested in developing indicators and evaluation criteria for citizen science and testing the applicability of citizen science for e.g. monitoring of biological diversity in agricultural landscapes (MonViA). I am passionate about expanding citizen science as a concept and work with colleagues to assess synergies with education for sustainable development, environmental policy and agro-ecology. To foster citizen science in Germany, I am a member of the AG Weissbuch, lead the MonViA Citizen Science Working Group and have previously coordinated the development of the German Citizen Science strategy 2020 with a consortium of partners in the GEWISS capacity building program. I am supervising BSc and MSc students and I am open to interdisciplinary research collaborations.

## **Currents research focus and current publications**

My current research is empirical and focuses on the construction of frameworks and conceptual principles based on the generality of citizen science. My overall scientific aim is to test the interoperability of citizen science with other scientific systems (e.g. Biodiversity, Education, and Evaluation) and concepts (Education for Sustainable Development, Action Research). The research contributes to our knowledge and understanding about the functioning of citizen science. I am further currently involved in the establishment of citizen science in agricultural landscapes to complement national biodiversity monitoring schemes (MonViA). Here, I am building capacities for citizen science and establish citizen science projects and educational tools for and with actors from the agricultural landscapes.

## **Major Citizen Science activities and outputs**

- Publication over 50 peer-reviewed and non- peer reviewed research articles, reports and documents, including book chapters, policy briefs and position papers
- Development of White Book Citizen Science Strategy for Germany 2020-2030 with dialog forums, online consultation and expert rounds
- Development Green Book Citizen Science Strategy for Germany 2010-2020 with public online consultation of green paper and formal consultation with organisations from science and civil society
- Coordinator of German citizen science network *Bürger Schaffen Wissen* - GEWISS : e.g. dialogue forum with over 500 participants from >80 organisations to discuss, explore and develop citizen science in Germany
- Initiator and Coordinator of Citizen Science Summer school (2019, 2022)
- Initiator and Coordinator of a Citizen Science butterfly project in Australia (2009-2010)
- Co-coordinating the First European Citizen Science Conference 2016 in Berlin

- Co-initiator of citizen science symposia and workshops (e.g. ICCB-ECCB, ECSA Conferences, GFÖ Conferences, ACA Conferences)
- Project partner in the “Insect Mobile”
- Co-leading Citizen Science at schools’ projects “Coolspots”
- Leading the development of educational tool for schools in rural settings

#### **Citizen Science Networks and Research Partnerships**

- Close collaboration with the Natural History Museum in Berlin (Project Partners)
- Partnerships with city councils e.g. city of Leipzig, Wernigerode, Braunschweig
- International partners through European Citizen Science Association, Australian Citizen Science Association and American Citizen Science Association
- Collaborations with Austrian Citizen Science networks and with national NGOs and citizen science projects (US, AU, CH and DK)