October 2021 update on the progress of translatE project

12/10/2021

Tatsuya Amano and Violeta Berdejo-Espinola (University of Queensland)

1. Searches for non-English-language literature on the effectiveness of conservation interventions

We are delighted to announce that our study showing that non-English-language studies provide crucial evidence for informing global biodiversity conservation has been published in PLOS Biology. It is open access and accessible to anyone here.

We believe that Fig 3 of the paper (see below) nicely summarises how much effort has gone into this work since late 2017.
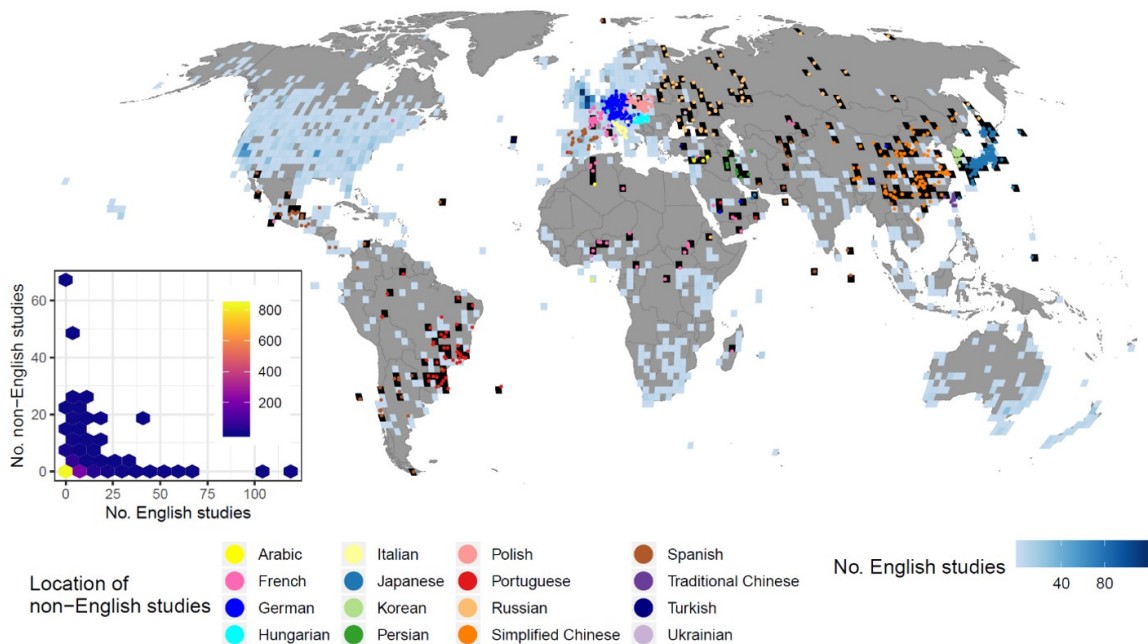
The location of non-English- vs English-language studies testing the effectiveness of conservation interventions. Amano et al (2021) Tapping into non-English-language science for the conservation of global biodiversity. PLOS Biology.

Multiple media outlets have covered our study, such as The Conversation Australia, UPI, Times Higher Education, Cosmos Magazine, Brisbane Times, and Xinhua. If your institute has issued a press/news release, or if you know any other media coverages, we would be grateful if you could share the link with us as we are hoping to list them on our website.

One last time, we want to say **THANK YOU** to the 62 collaborators who made this project happen, thanks for your time and effort in helping us screen invaluable information available in the 16 languages.

2. English-language barriers to local decision making

We are currently trying to understand language barriers to the application of English-language knowledge on biodiversity conservation. More specifically, we aim to understand how decision-makers perceive language as a barrier to the use of science in their conservation decision making.

Thanks to the help from collaborators, we have collected data from **37 countries** spanning **25 different languages.** We have made good progress analysing this data and writing up the paper and we hope to share the first draft to get feedback of those who were part of this project component quite soon.

Again, many thanks **not only to those colaborators who helped us get the information but also report authors/editors who took the time to contribute to this part of the project**. Much appreciated!

3. Overcoming language barriers to academic publishing

We have recently embarked into a new research project, where we are exploring journals' commitment to overcoming language barriers to academic publishing. This research started with the workshop on language barriers for non-native English speakers in publication processes, held on 7th July, 2021. Led by Henry Arenas-Castro (see below), we are currently working with more than 30 collaborators collating data from journals' websites and delivering structured surveys to journal editors. We hope to have our first draft by the end of the year and submit it in early 2022.

4. Other news

New members

A big warm welcome to our two new members – Henry Arenas-Castro and Kelsey Hannah!

Henry is a Senior Research Technician, assessing the commitment of journals in organismal biology to overcoming language barriers in academic publishing (see Section 3 above).

Kelsey is a new PhD student, focusing on understanding how language barriers can negatively impact the application of science in decision making as well as assessing the importance of non-english conservation science.

Very much looking forward to the development of these sub-projects!

translatE project nominated for the 2021 University of Queensland Awards for Excellence

We are delighted to announce that the translatE project has been nominated for the 2021 University of Queensland Awards for Excellence for the 'Community, Diversity, and Inclusion' component. The UQ Awards for Excellence celebrate researcher's achievements over the past year and highlight outstanding contributions, innovative work, and exemplary leadership in the research community. This would not have happened without the contributions of all of our collaborators wo are helping us to break language barriers in science.

Updating collaborators list in our website

As the translatE project produces more outputs on language barriers, the number of collaborators that make this possible also expands! We are updating the list of all the collaborators. **Please verify the information on the list and correct if anything is wrong**. From the list, we plan to upload the name, affiliation and first language of each collaborator. **Please let us know if you do not want your information to be listed on our website.**

Lastly, please indicate on **column I** whether you would like to be re-contacted for future collaborations.

Again, big thanks to everyone and stay safe!