

# wageningen soil conference

## MASTERCLASS

### M8: Topical Discussion on Functional Biogeography

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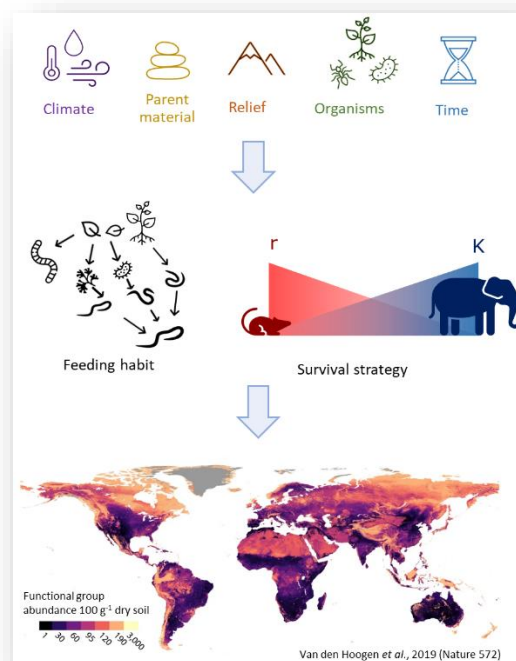
**Names of Co-organisers:** Carmen Vazquez-Martin, Rachel Creamer, Titia Mulder

**Short description:**

Functional biogeography is the study the geographic distribution of functional traits of species (i.e. morphological, physiological and ecological characteristics) and the abiotic and biotic factors that drive this distribution. By studying the functional biogeography of soil organisms we can increase our understanding of soil health across diverse landscapes. In addition, the focus on trait rather than species diversity may facilitate the link between belowground biogeography and the spatial distribution of soil functions. With this workshop we aim to introduce the concept of soil functional biogeography, and discuss opportunities and pitfalls for its implementation in the field of soil ecology

The workshop will be divided into two sections. The first section in an interactive exercise in which we will explore functional biogeography by developing maps of different nematode functional groups. In the second section, we will have an open discussion about studying species versus functional diversity within the field of biogeography and their link to soil functioning, discussing questions such as:

- What can you do with the knowledge of species versus function diversity approach?
- What are the pitfalls of each approach?
- The underlying idea behind functional biogeography is that it can provide more insight into ecosystem functioning. Is that so?
- How do we disentangle the effects of land use from larger spatial patterns?



**Theme:** Mapping and evaluation of soil functions across scales

**Keywords:** Functional diversity, biogeography, soil biota

**Type of masterclass:** Discussion