NITheCS
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Theoretical and Computational Sciences

NITheCS Colloquium
Monday, 25 April 2022, 16h00 – 17h00 SAST

Prof Devis Tuia (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland)

‘Machine learning supporting ecology, supporting machine learning’

ABSTRACT

We live an age of data. In all areas of society, digital data is now abundant, but also unstructured and pretty much unexploited. Animal ecology is no exception and recent years have seen an increase in the use of digital sensing to observe and understand the animal realm. In this talk, I will present some success stories at the interface of machine learning and conservation, where camera traps and drone data were used to support censing, population estimation and general understanding of animal behavior. I will then sketch a number of points of synergetic action necessary to strengthen such an interface, a necessary step to jointly tackle the biodiversity crisis.

BIOGRAPHY

Devis completed his PhD at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, where he studied kernel methods for hyperspectral satellite data. He then travelled the world as a postdoc, first to the University of València, then to CU Boulder and finally back to Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland.

In 2014, he became assistant professor at the University of Zurich. Three years later, he moved to Wageningen University in the Netherlands, where he chaired the Geo-Information Science and Remote Sensing Laboratory.

Since September 2020, he has been back at EPFL, where he leads the Environmental Computational Science and Earth Observation Laboratory (ECEO) in Sion. There, he studies the Earth from above with machine learning and computer vision.

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