

# Research Unit Forest Dynamics - colloquium

**Date:** 16.04.2024

**Time:** 10:30

**Room:** Engler-Saal

**Duration:** 25 minutes

**Author:** Dr. Stefan Klesse, WSL Forest Dynamics - Dendrosciences

**Title:** **When peer review fails – the community steps in**

## **Abstract:**

In this talk, I will give a recent example of a high-profile publication (“Drought sensitivity in mesic forests heightens their vulnerability to climate change”, by Heilmayr et al. 2023; Science) that underwent poor peer review, stunning the tree-ring community, and lead to my three-week long obsession over Christmas to finding out what was wrong. Spoiler: a lot! This will be a story of a kind and humble exchange between authors and peers, leading with 95% certainty to a retraction if all goes well. It is also a great example that publishing your code and data is not a bad thing if that helps prevent other people from chasing a mirage. I will also relate the findings presented in the paper with other research the community and I have conducted over the past decade.