



Thomas Giesecke

I am interested to continue serving as the chairperson of the EPD, to help develop and maintain it as a community supported, constituent database in Neotoma. The EPD community has matured in recent years, and I like to help stimulate younger scientists to join and develop new activity. My vision for the EPD in the coming years is to reach out to other communities in Europe that produce palaeoecological data to join the Neotoma platform facilitating new joint research projects. My involvement in Neotoma is motivated by the vision of Eric Grimm to create and maintain a multi-proxy database platform as a powerful research tool while safeguarding the data for future generations of scientists. I am currently a member of the Leadership council and the Executive Committee in Neotoma.

My motivation to get involved with the EPD dates to my PhD on the spread of Spruce in Scandinavia, where I reviewed pollen diagrams from Fennoscandia and neighbouring regions to compile maps depicting the timing of population expansions. The EPD was the starting point for my literature search, but I found many more published diagrams and wished that all these datasets were available in the EPD. I also found mistakes in the database and wanted to get involved and help correct them but had to realize that at the time this was very difficult. Thus, I helped organize the open meeting in 2007 and pushed for a new open structure where it would be easier to get involved. Since 2007 I have helped to develop the EPD while using it for my own research. I use the database to look at continental changes in plant distribution and abundance as well as changes in floristic diversity during the late Quaternary.