**Session Proposal**

# Session Title

From Dirt to Destiny: Communicating Soil Science for Global Sustainability and Cultural Understanding

# Session Organizers

Neng-Chang Chen, Institute of Eco-environmental and Soil Sciences, Guangdong Academy of Sciences, ncchen@soil.gd.cn, primary contact person

Yuan-Ming Song, University of Science and Technology Beijing, songyuanming@ustb.edu.cn

# Session Description

This session explores the intersection of soil science communication, historical narratives, and sustainable development. Soil health is foundational to food security, climate resilience, and cultural identity, yet public awareness of its importance remains limited. By bridging science, history, and storytelling, we aim to inspire innovative strategies for engaging diverse audiences in soil stewardship.

# Format

Oral presentations: 15-20 mins each, focusing on case studies, communication methods, or historical analyses.

Panel discussions: 15-30 mins.

# Proposed Speakers

Neng-Chang Chen, Institute of Eco-environmental and Soil Sciences, Guangdong Academy of Sciences, a leading expert in the field of public education on soil science.

Yuan-Ming Song, University of Science and Technology Beijing, an expert in the field of history of soil science.

Shun-Hua Yang, Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, an expert in the field of public education on soil science.

Zheng Chen, Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, an expert in the field of public education on soil science.

Eric Brevik, Dean of the College of Agricultural, Life and Physical Sciences at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, [eric.brevik@siu.edu](mailto:eric.brevik@siu.edu)

Alfred Hartemink, Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, [hartemink@wisc.edu](mailto:hartemink@wisc.edu)

Edoardo Constantini, Professor, former President of the International Union of Soil Sciences. of IUSS, CREA-ABP Agrobiology and Pedology Research Centre of Florence, [eac.costantini@gmail.com](mailto:eac.costantini@gmail.com)

David R Montgomery, Dean's Professor of Environmental Science Writing in the Department of Earth & Space Sciences at the University of Washington, [bigdirt@uw.edu](mailto:bigdirt@uw.edu)

Marc-André Selosse, Professor at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, ma.selosse@wanadoo.fr

Jo Handelsman, soil microbiologist and a professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, jo.handelsman@wisc.edu

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More to be added later