

Speakers for Students for Rivers Camp 2019

Last update - 21st of June 2019

Various experts from universities and NGO's from around the world will share their knowledge and experience during Students for Rivers Camp 2019. They will present topics reaching from legislation to ecology and from finance to morphology, thereby giving you the background you need to turn your knowledge into action.

Below you find the contributors per programme item. Further down, you find a list of participants and the River Intellectuals team. We are super excited to meet all of you in person!

Movie Night #1 - Presenting Balkan River Defence

Sunday July 7th | 9 pm

Rok Rozman - Founder of Balkan River Defence, Rok started as a passionate kayaker that was shocked when he heard about plans for 3.000 dams on his home rivers. For him, there was no other option than to take action. In 2016 he started the Balkan Rivers Tour – in his 4th edition now – which grew into the internationally known Balkan River Defence movement. He will share his story with us, in his uniquely Slovenian humorous way.

Lectures; The River System & Impacts of Hydropower

Monday July 8th | 9 am - 1 pm

Tuesday July 8th | 9 am - 1 pm

Steven Weiss - Steven is an associate professor at the University of Graz, in Austria, where he specializes in fish genetics and has worked on many conservation projects in Austria and around Europe. In the Balkans, he is working with Riverwatch on the “Blue Heart of Europe” campaign.

Gabriel Singer - Gabriel is a researcher at the Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB) in Berlin. His main research focus is on carbon-related ecosystem functions and biodiversity in river networks. Gabriel's team is currently following up research on the Vjosa River in Albania.

Markus Noack - Markus is a newly appointed professor at Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences in Germany. He successfully ran the hydraulic lab at the University of Stuttgart for many years. His research spans from classical engineering topics such as sediment dynamics to applied interdisciplinary questions such as fish habitats. He initiated EcoMeetIng, which is in its 10th edition this year and aims to bring together the communities of environmental engineering and river ecology.

Lecture; Mura Campaign - Cancelled

Changed for Lecture; River Intellectuals

Monday July 8th | 2 pm - 2.30 pm

Vera Knook - Vera is the initiator and mind behind the River Intellectuals network. Three years ago she joined the first Balkan Rivers Tour and after finishing her Master in Hydraulic Engineering she decided to dedicate her time to saving the rivers in the Balkans, combining her passion for kayaking with her knowledge of Water Management. She aims to involve scientists from many disciplines, showing the world that rivers have more value than mere Kilowatts. She will introduce the Network, the vision behind it and some of the plans for 2020.

Corruption Game

Monday July 8th | 2.30 pm - 6 pm

Kasper Sluiter - A student at the University of Technology in Delft, Kasper is working in collaboration with the River Intellectuals initiative to develop a *serious game* for his master thesis, that aims to give insights into the influence of corruption on hydropower development. He will present a special workshop tailored for SRC.

Lecture; Role of Hydro in the power grid

Tuesday July 9th | 2 pm - 4 pm

Andrej Gubina - Andrej is a professor at the University of Ljubljana. He researches about how power grids and systems interact with the economy and will provide insight on how alternative energy solutions would work in the power grid.

Open Lecture; Global Impacts

Tuesday July 9th | 8 pm - 9 pm

Steven Weiss - See above

Movie Night #3

Tuesday July 9th | 9 pm - 10 pm

Anup Gurung - Where the other movie nights feature movies from the Kendal Mountain Festival and the Boff Film Festival, this night will be hosted by Anup Gurung. Anup took on a mission last winter. Together with 3 other Nepali kayakers, he paddled most rivers in Nepal from East to West to draw attention to the impacts of development on the local inhabitants. He will take you on his journey with terrific photos and several short videos.

Lecture; BRD - Moved to Sunday 7th

Open Lecture; Drivers of Hydropower

Wednesday July 10th | 1 am - 12 am

Pippa Gallop - Having worked for Bankwatch for many years, Pippa knows the ins and outs of financial streams into unconventional projects. She is a star at diving into numbers and finds a mission in directing public money to projects that are worthwhile.

Davor Pehchevski - Davor is an environmentalist at heart, currently tackling projects for Bankwatch and Eko-Svest. He will share his experience and knowledge on how subsidies and public finance from European investment banks are feeding the hydropower development boom in the Balkans, and explain why more transparency is needed to avoid public money fueling controversial and destructive hydropower projects.

Lecture; Communication and Project Tools

Wednesday July 10th | 12 am - 1 pm

Friday July 11th | 12 am - 1 pm

Carmen Kuntz - A core member of Balkan River Defence, Carmen is a freelance writer and has much experience with international communications and reaching wide audiences through various media outlets. She manages communications for BRD and will talk about the impact research can have when communicated properly through different media channels.

Jess Droujko - After finishing her master thesis at ETH Zürich this year, she decided to dedicate her time to river conservation. She found that there is a data gap when it comes to protecting rivers that could be overcome with more technology being available for river conservationists. She decided to write a PhD proposal and will tell you her lessons learned through this process.

Helena Hudek - Helena decided to show the world that small hydropower plants destroy the rivers in Croatia and the rest of the Balkans. She does this through monitoring macroinvertebrates within her PhD in Berlin. She set up funding herself and will, together with Jess, give you some tips and tricks.

Alistair Maltby - As operations director of the Rivers Trust in the UK, Alistair is a widely experienced river conservationist. A big part of his work relates to the restoration of rivers in the UK, with the aim of bringing degraded rivers back to a more natural, healthy state. He knows first hand how important it is to safeguard the pristine rivers in the Balkans and – as a whitewater kayaker himself – has become an

active member of BRD through Balkan Rivers Tour. During SRC, he will share his experience in citizen science, and how it can be used not only to gather data, but especially to get local people involved in river conservation.

Open Lecture; Soča Law

Wednesday July 10th | 8 pm - 9 pm

Jernej Stritih - With years of experience in river conservation, he was in charge of the national program for nature conservation and helped found national parks in the Balkans. He now runs an NGO that did an economic study on the value of the free-flowing Soca compared to the dammed section. He knows all ins and outs of the Soca river and will present and discuss them with you.

Lecture; Balkan Examples

Thursday July 11th | 9 am - 12 am

Miloš Orlić - As a new team member of the Center of Environment (CZZS) Miloš works on the protection of wild rivers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This NGO will not let a single dam be built in their country until evidence exists that no unnecessary harm is done. Where many river conservationists fight against hydropower only, CZZS also aims to close coal power plants, knowing that proactive actions against hydropower development can only be effective within an overall sustainable energy policy.

Kim Fernančič - A fish lover and biologist at heart, she will share her findings on research done on fish in the Soča, specifically the marble trout. She will show the impacts of hydropower dams and other small and big weirs and how much needs to be done to get back to a natural state.

Jens Benöhr - Jens is part of the River Intellectuals team and brings in his experience from Chile, where he has been involved in several River Conservation efforts. He will present 'Patagonia sin Represas', a nationwide collaboration and 'Rios to Rivers' which organises exchange programs between high school students that live in hydropower affected valleys.

Workshop; RI Network

Thursday July 11th | 2 pm - 3 pm

David Farò - As a PhD student, David researches the link between morphology and habitat suitability. As part of the River Intellectuals team, he sees high value in connecting research to river conservation and is looking forward to a lively

discussion with many of you! The main question being; how can we bridge the gap between Research and River Conservation.

River Experience

Friday July 12th | Whole day

During the River Experience, we will have some small stops where we talk about what we see on the river, linking theory to practice, with a.o. **David Farò**, **Steven Weiss** and **Alistair Maltby**.

Participants

We are excited to welcome 30 students to the camp from all directions in the Balkans and the rest of Europe.

Kasper Sluiter - Industrial Design (Master student) - The Netherlands

Ana Stritih - Ecosystem Services (PhD student) - Slovenia

Semra Mahmutović - Environmental protection (Master student) - Montenegro

Filip Bezovnik - Environmental Engineering (Bachelor student) - Slovenia

Johanna Felber - Communication and Media Studies/Environmental Studies (Master student) - Germany

Anja Fuechtbauer - Environmental Management and Policy (Master student) - Germany

Gabriel Gruber - Environmental Engineering (Master student) - Austria

Sonia Herrero - Aquatic biogeochemistry (PhD student) - Spain

Silvia Marie Krautzik - Geography (Bachelor student) - Germany

Evgenija Krstevska - International relations and conflict management (PhD student) - Macedonia

Zvonimir Magdić - Political Ecology, Degrowth and Environmental Justice (Master student) - Croatia

Sophie Mair - Environment and Bio-Resources Management (Bachelor student) - Austria

Rastko Marković - Geography (Bachelor student) - Serbia

Felix Mayer - Environment and Bio-Resources Management (Bachelor student) - Austria

Yana Nikolova - Conservation Biology and Management (Bachelor student) - Bulgaria

Dimitrios Papageorgiou - Organic Agriculture, Agroecology, Rural Development (Master student) - Greece

Afra Pescalli - Political Science and International Relations (Bachelor student) - Italy

Mirjana Radulovic - Geosciences (PhD student) - Serbia

Niccolo Sala - Aquatic ecology (Bachelor student) - Italy

Anna Schöpfer - Limnology (PhD student) - Austria

Jan Sodoge - Environmental systems and resource management (Master student) - Germany

Waldo Soto - Urban Management (Master student) - Chile

Pietro Steffano - Philosophy (Bachelor student) - Italy

Sofie Sunesson - Environmental Engineering (Master student) - Sweden

Marjana Tomazic - Nature Conservation (Master student) - Slovenia

Francesca Vallefucio - Hydrobiology (PhD student) - Italy

Kara Virik - Urban Management (Master student) - Germany / United States

Franziska Ellen Walther - Geography, Global Change Geography, Sustainable Geography, Ecohydrology, Biogeochemistry (Master student) - Germany

Karla Wenner - Landscape Ecology (Master student) - Germany

Olivia Wilfling - Limnology (Master student) - Austria

Maša Zupančič - Biology, Environmental Science/Ecotechnology (master student) - Slovenia

River Intellectuals Organizing Team

The people that are working hard to make the Students for Rivers Camp a week full of inspiration, knowledge exchange, good food and fun times.

Vera Knook - The Netherlands

Elisabeth Dirninger - Austria

Jessica Droujko - Canada

David Farò - Italy

Monika Kurincic - Slovenia

Jens Benöhr - Chile