

Dr Yoseph Araya

Dr Yoseph Araya, is a Lecturer in Ecology & Environmental Sciences within the Ecosystems and Biodiversity Research discipline.

His research interest is in the functional relationships between plants and their environment (particularly water and nutrients). He is also an enthusiastic communicator of science and environmental education.

Some projects he has been involved include:

- Soil Moisture gradients and biodiversity in the Cape Flora, Western Cape, South Africa: looking at niche segregation, plant coexistence, ecohydrological management, evolution of plant diversity
- Integrating plant and soil microbial diversity in species-rich plant assemblages in grasslands e.g. Spain, UK
- Environmental education for the public and engagement in science, including Citizen Science on water, plants, hedges ... e.g. iSpot
- Quantitative Ecology i.e. querying plant record databases for trends and also collaborating with statisticians to test new methods e.g. Foodplain Meadows
- Valuing of Ecosystem Services for multiple purposes and stakeholders for sustainable wholistic environmental management
- Macadamia tree growth and nut production in response to provenance, agroclimatic zone and management practices with Neno Macadamia Trust and Emmanuel Zuza Jr.

He has been an Associate Lecturer with the OU for a number of years, on various science, ecology and environmental science modules (from undergraduate to postgraduate) across faculties and particularly enjoys modules that bridge across disciplines and involve approaches in technology-enhanced learning.

Some modules in which he has been involved are: Environmental Science (S206/SXF206), Biology of Survival (S295), Environmental Management (T219), Journey's in a changing Environment (U116), SXE390 (Science Project - Environment strand), Environment responding to change (SDT306). A free taster for SDT306 is entitled as 'Eating for the Environment'. He writes public education blogs at OU's OpenLearn website. He has active collaborations with colleagues in other institutions within the UK as well as overseas e.g. Spain, Germany, Malawi, and South Africa.