

Manuel Schneider likes to think outside the box. As a grassland scientist, this is what he enjoys most at EAAP conferences and as a member of the EAAP working group on Mountain livestock farming.

During his studies in agricultural sciences, he specialized in plant science but always with great curiosity for developments in other disciplines. He wrote an undergraduate thesis on alpine cheese production but also worked several months in Sri Lanka investigating rainfed intercrops of maize and legumes. After his PhD thesis on the long-term effects of climate change on carbon turnover in grassland ecosystems at ETH Zurich, he spent a year as a post-doctoral fellow in York (UK). Together with theoretical ecologists he developed spatio-temporal models of plant populations and got introduced to Bayesian statistics, a field that fascinates and inspires him until today. Back in Switzerland, he joined the Environmental Chemistry group at Eawag in a project on the risk assessment of veterinary anthelmintics - his first touching point with the animal industry.

In 2008, he started working at Agroscope in Zürich and established the Mountain Grassland Team. Driven by the need of understanding vegetation patterns in mountain pastures, he soon started to apply GPS trackers and other sensors to grazing livestock. To analyse the spatio-temporal datasets in depth, he teamed up with marine ecologists and spatial statisticians. In recent years, he worked on the mitigation of shrub encroachment by ruminants and consequences of agricultural management for ecosystem services of mountain grasslands. He enjoys exploring new fields like remote sensing and machine learning, and from time to time, there is even the chance to analyse data in a Bayesian framework.

Manuel Schneider is a passionate programmer in R as it opens up so many possibilities to use the computer to realise one's ideas. His other passion is the guitar, which he considers the most versatile instrument with regards to style and technique. Trained as a classical guitarist, he nowadays specialises in fingerstyle on steel-string and nylon acoustics. In his remaining time, he likes gardening, mountaineering and socializing with friends and the family.