



**Bea Bock, Ph.D.**  
**(she/her)**

**Candidate for Communications  
Director**

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Dept.

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## Candidate statement

As a postdoctoral fellow studying the genomic architecture of plant-fungal root symbioses, I have spent my time in academia focusing on the intersection of ecology and data. I am honored to run for Communications Director for the International Mycorrhiza Society, a community that has been central to my development as a scientist.

My commitment to science communication is driven by the goal of making our findings accessible and engaging for both researchers and the public. I have served as both a guest and a host in media outreach, having been interviewed about my research on common fungal networks, and I have hosted interviews with colleagues like Dr. Pedro Antunes for the South American Mycorrhizal Research Network. I have also authored several plain-language articles, including pieces for the Functional Ecology blog, and worked with press offices to translate my research for wider distribution. These experiences have taught me how to turn technical data into stories that resonate with a broad audience.

As a Carpentries-certified instructor, I have spent much time developing the tools to teach complex concepts to diverse groups. I want to bring this same approach to the IMS. I believe our role is to bridge the gap between our foundational research and broader societal interests.

If elected, I aim to modernize our digital outreach to ensure that the work done by our members reaches the widest possible audience. I want to streamline our channels to amplify the voices of our diverse membership and help make our field more visible. With my experience in organizing international symposia, translating technical findings for the public, and teaching, I am ready to serve this community and contribute to the growth of our collective research efforts.