Plant population dynamics, especially dynamics of rainforest trees.

1. Few tree populations have been mapped at the individual level across age or size classes. But the data available indicate that the spatial distribution of a population often differs among life stages, i.e. among adult trees, smaller trees, seedlings and the "seed rain". What are the main causal factors that may generate these differences? Develop a conceptual framework and a general research design to identify these factors and to quantify their effects, across ages/sizes (you may choose whether to use age or size). Your framework and design should be suitable (perhaps with some modifications) for any tree species in tropical or temperate forests.

Note on habitat heterogeneity: You should not get hung up on specifics and complexities of habitat heterogeneity in your approach, which should be general. Limit your consideration to substrate heterogeneity (SH) and canopy structure (CS). Assume that relevant SH at a site can be measured; omit detail. But be more specific how to assess CS, because your approach can be applied across forest types.