



# Center for Environmental Futures

*environment | justice | culture*

CEF Accomplishments, 2020-2022  
new research projects  
funding opportunities

*highlighting:*  
**PNW Just Futures Institute**

Design by Zac Provant & Jesse Noone

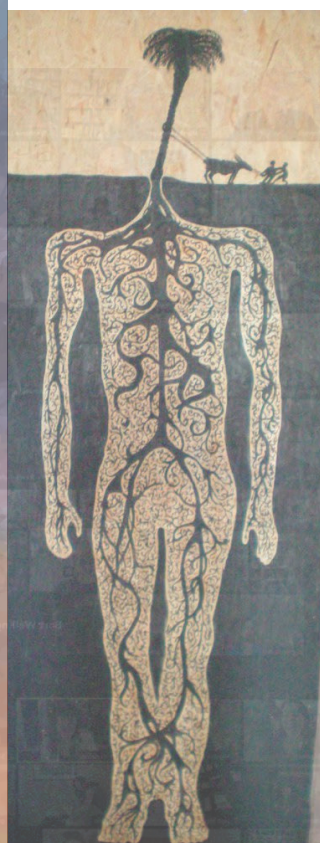
event representations created or provided by:  
**María Belén Norona:** "Weaving Body-territories of Extraction & Hope"

**Hayley Brazier:** "A Journey to the Pacific Seafloor"

**Rob Nixon:** "The Less Selfish Gene"

**Anne McClintock:** "Monster: A Fugue in Fire and Ice"

**Dorceta Taylor:** "Untold Stories of the Conservation Movement"



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Who We Are

# Honoring Native People and Lands

The Center for Environmental Futures and the University of Oregon are located on Kalapuya Ilihi, the traditional Indigenous homeland of the Kalapuya people. Following treaties signed between 1851 and 1855, the U.S. government dispossessed Kalapuyas of their sacred homelands and forcibly removed them. We recognized that those treaties did not cede the lands that UO now occupies. Today, Kalapuya descendants continue to contribute to their communities, UO, Oregon, and the world as citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. We acknowledge the genocide inflicted by settler colonialism and the ongoing injustices against Kalapuyas. We now hope to disrupt that legacy, beginning with environmental justice and honest storytelling about this place.

CEF also extends our respect to the nine federally recognized Indigenous nations of Oregon: the Burns Paiute Tribe; the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians; the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; the Coquille Indian Tribe; the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians; and the Klamath Tribes. Finally, we express our respect for the numerous Indigenous peoples who are not formally recognized and yet have ancestral homelands in Oregon and continued connections to their lands, including the Celilo-Wyam Indian Community, the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes, and the Nimiipuu (Nez Perce).

# A Vision for the Future

No future is inevitable. Yet, we live in a moment when it seems that all we look forward to is diminishment—wildfires raging across the American West, the threat of a catastrophic earthquake on our Northwest Coast, racial turmoil, environmental injustices across the American landscape, climate change and record levels of extinction worldwide. What if it were possible to walk into the future with competent strategies for adaptation and transformative change, and with stories drawn from generations of wisdom about how to make a better world, even in the face of catastrophe?

We at the Center for Environmental Futures believe that it is possible to greet the future with courage, integrity, and vision. The Environmental Humanities reflect on the intersections between humans and their environments through time among different cultures, encouraging us to grapple with complex moral and ethical issues, cultivate empathy, and prompt us to think critically about the world around us in an era of profound environmental change. We aim to transform our environmental futures through imaginative and creative projects that remind us that no future is inevitable, that the future is ours to make.

The Environmental Humanities helps us to understand the intersectionality between the effects of climate change and environmental injustice through the long history of colonialism and racism. We support scholarship that changes the way we do research in universities, so that teamwork, community engagement, accessibility, and public impact are paramount. Above all, we work to understand the environment and the human condition through storytelling, interpretation, argumentation, and the visual arts.



*In January 2021, CEF received a grant from The Mellon Foundation to create the Pacific Northwest Just Futures Institute for Racial and Climate Justice. The \$4.52 million grant is the largest humanities award in UO history. The UO was among 38 institutions invited to submit proposals to the Just Futures initiative – and CEF is one of 16 grantees selected out of 165 proposals.*

## Pacific Northwest Just Futures Institute for Racial and Climate Justice



The Pacific Northwest (PNW) Just Futures Institute focuses on sustaining the livelihoods of local Indigenous, Latinx, Black, and rural working-class people. The verb “sustaining” is a call to action to dismantle racial and climate injustice. Today the PNW witnesses one of the most dramatic ethnic and racial demographic shifts in the U.S., leading America’s regional population growth (12-16% annually). Intensifying drought conditions in California and the intermountain West contribute to our demographic transformations. These seismic changes include Latinx essential workers who are reshaping the service sector and agricultural landscape. Simultaneously, rural Indigenous populations and urban Black communities fight to preserve their cultural legacies against gentrification, displacement, and land appropriation.

Racial justice and climate justice intertwine; both promote work, economic dignity, and the environment as holistic values. We define “work” capaciously to include essential workers in agriculture, forestry, viticulture, maritime industries, and food processing, as well as the Indigenous work of harvesting traditional foods and maintaining traditional ecological and medicinal knowledge for sustenance, ritual, and healing.

The Just Futures Institute is a collaborative effort among the University of Oregon (Eugene and Portland), the University of Idaho (Moscow), and Whitman College (Walla Walla, WA), with eight research clusters that foster anti-racist environmental futures primarily in rural areas through collaborative research, publications, community engagement, applied courses, pedagogical experiments, digital platforms, and academic incentives to increase access to higher education for historically underrepresented communities. Each partner institution offers specific programs and unique perspectives that we will integrate into a set of shared products.



**John Arroyo**  
Director



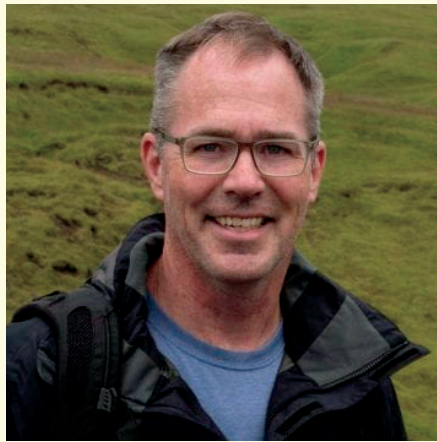
**Alaí Reyes-Santos**  
Associate Director



**Stephanie LeMenager**  
Coordinating Team



**Marsha Weisiger**  
Coordinating Team



**Mark Carey**  
Coordinating Team



**Laura Pulido**  
Coordinating Team

## Around the O

"We are tremendously grateful to the Mellon Foundation for recognizing the innovative thinking of our faculty," said UO president Michael H. Schill. "This award will support our researchers' work to address racial and climate justice through a uniquely humanistic lens. It will empower the UO to be a visionary leader in this arena."

"There are so many people at the UO whose work centers on the fight for racial and environmental justice," said Stephanie LeMenager, co-director of the Center for Environmental Futures. "This institute will combine the imaginative and scholarly work of the humanities with expertise in policy, design and historic preservation to help communities around the Pacific Northwest."

# Accomplishments at JFI

[jfi.uoregon.edu](http://jfi.uoregon.edu)

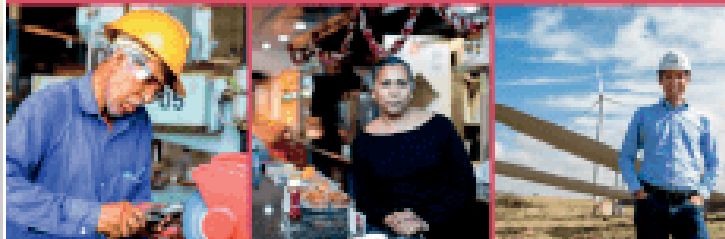
The Just Futures Institute (JFI) has made tremendous progress within the community in just one year and a half. Through publications, community-targeted projects, student and faculty awards, oral history, interviews, workshops, and inclusive research, JFI is breaking new ground for the future of the Pacific Northwest.



## “A State of Immigrants”:

A New Look at the Immigrant Experience in Oregon

Robert Bussel, Editor



In 2021, JFI teamed with the Labor Education and Research Center (LERC), to develop the report, *"A State of Immigrants": A Look at the Immigrant Experience in Oregon*, edited by LERC Director, Bob Bussel.

The politics of immigration in Oregon has continued to evolve toward creating a more welcoming environment for immigrants and refugees. Written by scholars from Oregon's three major research universities (University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and Portland State University, *"A State of Immigrants"* documents the many

economic, social, civic, cultural, and political contributions that immigrants and refugees are making in Oregon's workplaces and communities, identifies the challenges immigrants and refugees face in adapting to their new environment, and highlights the efforts by immigrants and community-based institutions to help newcomers become acclimated and achieve a greater sense of acceptance and belonging.



### **Sustaining Racial Justice through Academic Incentives**

Karin Bolender awarded the 2022-23 CEF Postdoctoral Fellowship

Yesenia Navarrete awarded the 2022-23 IRES Postdoctoral Fellowship

Holly Moulton awarded the 2022-23 Dissertation Fellowship

### **Sustaining Anti-Racist, Economic Dignity through Research and Experimental Pedagogy**

Sarah Stoeckl of the Office of Sustainability recruited two cohorts of Sustainability Fellows to foster student-led research into the experiences and lives of essential but invisible workers.

Created a pedagogical toolkit for faculty and students who want to contribute to the *PNW Atlas of Essential Work* through the Sustainability Fellows program.

Published English and Spanish versions of LERC's "*A State of Immigrants*" report.

### **Ice, Society, and Climate Justice Initiative**

Recruited a cohort of students for the 2022 Ice & Environmental Justice Summer Undergraduate Research. Selected faculty recipients for the 2022-23 Course Development Stipend Awards to develop new UO courses on themes related to ice, society, and climate justice.

### **Sustaining Indigenous Lifeways through Outreach and Public Engagement**

Climate Change and Indigenous People's (CCIP) fellowship awarded.

### **Sustaining Inclusive Cities**

Began design for Historical Highway Markers website.

Began development of Latino/a/x Urbanism research database.

Conducted research on recent immigration legislation at the local, state, and federal level and on trauma and migration's effect on creative placemaking in cities.

Developed historic preservation workshop on African American cultural heritage in Portland's Albina district.

Conducted housing research via oral histories with Latinx migrants and prepared for applied housing studio.

### **Sustaining Climate Justice and Health through Afro-Indigenous Healing**

Caribbean Women Healers project received the 2022 Latin American Studies Association Honorable Mention.

Began building relationships with collaborators in Washington and Idaho.

### **Next West Media Lab (Whitman College)**

Held a gathering with indigenous elders to dig roots in Zumwalt Prairie.

### **Stories of Fire: A PNW Climate Justice Atlas (University of Idaho)**

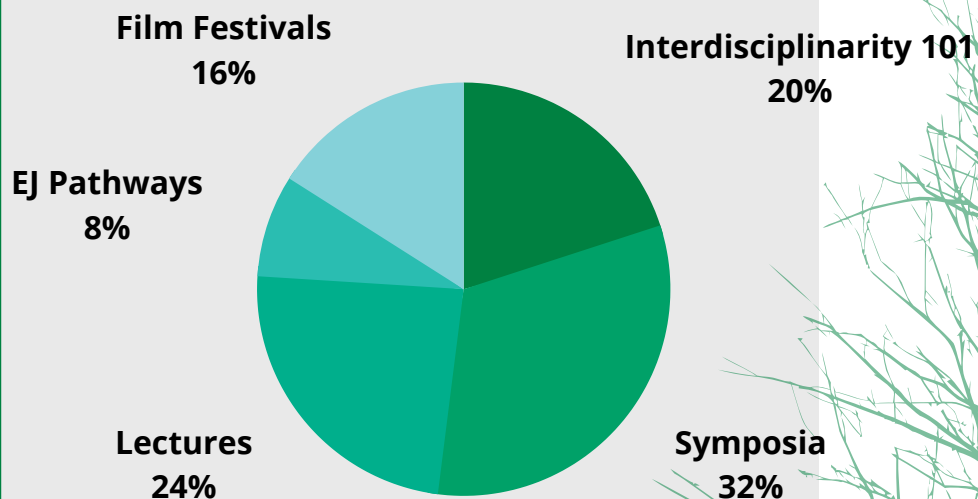
Began work on the Atlas.

# Public Programming

**2015-2022**



**~2,500 event attendees**



**40 films at 5 film festivals**

**6 symposia**

**2 book launches**

**20 guest presentations**

**8 environmental justice webinars**

**33 Interdisciplinarity 101 lectures**

# Book Launches for CEF Faculty

*Launched June 4th 2021*

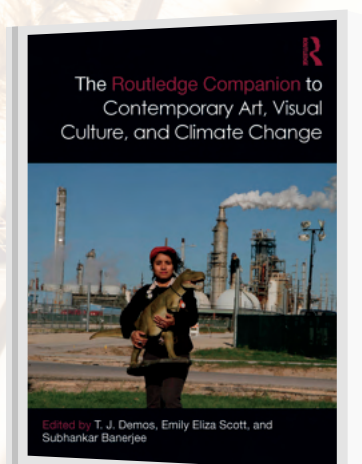
**Literature and Environment: Critical and Primary Sources, edited by Stephanie LeMenager and Teresa Shewry (Bloomsbury, 2021).**

Panel discussion with Stephanie LeMenager (UO), Teresa Shewry (University of California, Santa Barbara), Joni Adamson (Arizona State University), Alenda Chang (University of California, Santa Barbara), Heather Davis (The New School), Ursula Heise (University of California, Los Angeles), Jorge Marcone (Rutgers University), David Vazquez (American University), Sarah Wald (UO), and Priscilla Ybarra (University of North Texas)



*Launched April 2nd, 2021*

**The Routledge Companion to Contemporary Art, Visual Culture, and Climate Change, edited by T. J. Demos, Emily Eliza Scott, and Subhankar Banerjee (Routledge, 2021).**

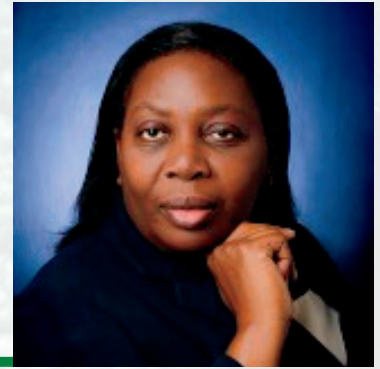


Panel discussion with T. J. Demos (University of California, Santa Cruz), Emily Eliza Scott (UO), Subhankar Banerjee (University of New Mexico), Macarena Gómez-Barris (Pratt Institute), Lucy R. Lippard (independent art critic), Nomusa Makhubu (University of Cape Town), and Julie Sze (University of California, Davis)

# Distinguished Lectures

**Dorceta Taylor**

"Untold Stories of the Conservation Movement: Race, Power, and Privilege"



**Rob Nixon**

"The Less Selfish Gene: Forest Altruism, Neoliberalism, and the Tree of Life"



**M Jackson**

"The Secret Lives of Glaciers"



**Anne McClintock**

"Monster: A Fugue in Fire and Ice"



**Kurt Russo**

"Killer Whales and Indigenous Environmental Conservation"



# Sustaining Essential Work

## Virtual Symposium



CEF collaborated with the UO Office of Sustainability, the Student Sustainability Center, and the UO School of Planning, Public Policy, and Management to address how questions of economic dignity, climate justice, racism, immigration, and labor rights are intertwined and in need of urgent attention as we attempt to build sustainable futures.



The virtual symposium featured two keynote speakers, **Helena María Viramontes** (Cornell) and **Mario Sifuentez** (UC Merced), plus guest consultants from RAD (Research-Action-Design) collective and PCUN (Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noreste) Executive Director Ms. Reyna Lopez.



# Interdisciplinarity 101 Workshops



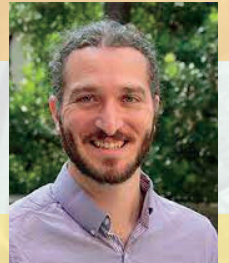
**Jon Bellona, Bailey Hilgren, and Lucas Silva**  
*Soundscapes of Socioecological Succession:  
An Interdisciplinary Record of Resilience to Wildfire*



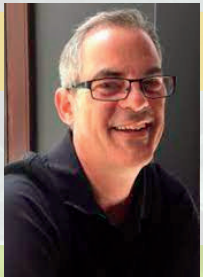
**Hayley Brazier**  
*A Journey to the Pacific Seafloor  
and the Technologies Hidden within Its Depths*



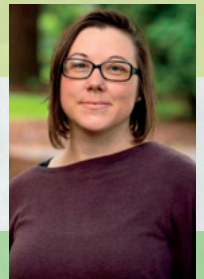
**Tianna Bruno**  
*Environmental Injustice and Black Sense of Place in the  
Socio-Biophysical Afterlife of Slavery*



**Marcel Brousseau**  
*Lines and Shutters: Photographing  
the Life of the U.S.-Mexico Border Wall*



**James Buckley**  
*Mapping Race: GIS and African American Spatial History  
in Portland, OR*



**Allison Ford**  
*Environmental Politics at the End of the World*



**M Jackson**  
*Science-Telling: The Challenge of Communicating  
Accurate Science across Diverse Platforms*

Since 2017, we have held gatherings roughly three times per quarter to share works-in-progress by faculty and graduate students in the humanities, social sciences, arts, architecture, and education. For the 2020-2022 academic years, these workshops highlighted:

**Kelsey Juliana and Tia Hatton**  
*Juliana v United States*



**María Belén Norona**  
*Weaving Body-Territories of Extraction and Hope*

**Alaí Reyes-Santos and Cheyenne Holliday**  
*Oregon Water Futures: Stories by Rural Communities of Color*



**Gordon Sayre**  
*Rare Birds and Rare Books: The Species as a Work of Art*

**Rebekah Sinclair**  
*Un-Settling Species Concepts: Ethics, Pluralism, and Science*



**Peter Walker**  
*This Changes Everything: Social Adaptation to Climate-Driven Wildfire Risk in Oregon*

**Kirsten Vinyeta**  
*Drawing from Karuk World Renewal: Illustrating More-Than-Human Agency and Relationality in the Klamath River Basin*



# Environmental Justice Webinar Series

In lieu of a planned Environmental Justice Pathways Summit in spring 2020, which we had to cancel due to COVID-19, we worked with Beyond Toxics to co-sponsor an Environmental Justice Pathways Webinar series, leading up to a virtual Environmental Justice Pathways Summit in spring 2021. Unless otherwise indicated, Haley Case-Scott (Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; Beyond Toxics and NAACP of Lane County) moderated these webinars. You may access this series on the Beyond Toxics website ([beyondtoxics.org](http://beyondtoxics.org)).



**“Historical Intersections of Race, Economy, and Environment in Oregon,”** with panelists David Harrelson (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde), Gwendolyn Trice (Maxville Heritage Interpretative Center), Ramon Ramirez (founding president, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noreste), and Linda Tamura (Willamette University); moderated by Laura Pulido (UO).

**“Unjust Care and Pandemics,”** with panelists Pradnya Garud (University of Arizona), Eric Richardson (NAACP of Lane County), Eva Galvez (Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center), and Joel Iboa (CAUSA Oregon).

**“Youth Art Show,”** showcased art, poetry, and storytelling by young local artists Grace Burkes, Nailly Nevarez, A. W. W., and Paul Wilson.

**“Right to Clean Air,”** with panelists Tony DeFalco (VERDE), Mary Peveto (Neighbors for Clean Air), and Ana Molino (Beyond Toxics); moderated by Benjamin Duncan (Chief Officer of Diversity and Equity, Multnomah County).

**“Right to a Healthy Workplace,”** with panelists Martha Sanato (Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noreste), Susan Sygall (Mobility International USA), and Ira Cuello-Martinez (VOZ Workers’ Rights Education Project); moderated by Kate Suisman (Northwest Workers’ Justice Project).

**“Tribal and Indigenous Knowledge in Policy,”** with panelists Wenix Red Elk (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), Colleen Sanders (Climate Adaptation Planner, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), Susan Fricke (Water Quality Program Manager, Karuk Tribe), Robert Kentta (Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians); moderated by Lara A. Jacobs (Mvskoke Creek).

**“Tribal Water Justice,”** with Don Gentry (Chairman, Klamath Tribes) and respondent Direlle Calica (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; Institute for Tribal Government; Changing Currents, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; Kanim Associates).

**“Oregon’s History of African American and Japanese Timber Workers,”** with panelists Gwendolyn Trice (Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center) and Linda Tamura (Willamette University); moderated by Lisa Arkin (Beyond Toxics).



# Environmental Justice Pathways Summit 2021



The Center for Environmental Futures partnered with Beyond Toxics for the Environmental Justice Pathways Summit, held on April 9 and 10, 2021. Keynote speakers Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali (Vice President of Environmental Justice, Climate & Community Revitalization for the National Wildlife Federation and Founder & CEO of Revitalization Strategies) and Sheila Watt-Cloutier (environmental, cultural, and human rights advocate) were featured for the two-day event.

Leaders and representatives from frontline communities joined with scholars, students, policymakers, institutions, and NGOs to hold critical conversations around Oregon's leadership on policies and investments to address environmental justice concerns across our state.



Inaugurated in Spring 2017, we celebrated Earth Week with a thematic environmental film series.

# Emerald Earth film festival

streaming on demand

April 17-24

2021 theme:

# TOXINS

*Featuring the films:*

**Painted Nails** by Erica Jordan and Dianne Griffin

conversation April 19th (12pm-1pm PDT), moderators Rachael Lee & Miliann Kang

**East LA Interchange** by Betsy Kalin

conversation April 20th (12pm-1pm PDT), moderators John Arroyo & Carla Macal

**Around Crab Orchard** by Sarah Kanouse


conversation April 21st (11am-12pm PDT), moderator Emily Scott

# Emerald Earth Film Festival

In 2022, the Emerald Earth Festival partnered with Michele Eggers and the Eugene Environmental Film Festival for a ten-day hybrid event. Over 60 films were available to stream, with twelve live screenings held at Broadway Metro as we braced for one of our first returns to public venues and presentations since the pandemic began. A portion of the proceeds went to Cascadia Wildlands and Our Children's Trust.

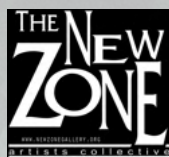
The Center for Environmental Futures Presents  
**Eugene Environmental Film Festival**  
In Partnership with Emerald Earth Film Festival

Join us for an exploration of the environment and the diverse cultures, traditions, species, ecosystems, sustainable practices, and resistance efforts to protect planet Earth.



AN IMPERFECT ADVOCATE    BARRICADE    KILLING THE KLAMATH    HANDMADE IN BANGLADESH    SEE FELIX: PORTRAIT ARTIST

MOMENTS    NICE UPON A VILLAGE    WILD THINGS    FORCED CHANGE    YOUTH V GOV    OTHER



Over 500 people tuned in to the streaming portion of the event. Musicians Mignon Geli, Good Shield Aguilar, and Mountain Lion Padilla provided entertainment for the online reception, while New Zone Gallery hosted our in-person opening reception. More than 100 people attended the in-person screenings. Feature films *If a Tree Falls* and *Youth v Gov* were showcased with a Q & A panel following each film.

# Totem Pole Journey



The University of Oregon welcomed the Totem Pole Journey, the intertribal nonprofit organization Se'Si'Le, and The Natural History Museum's Whale People exhibit to campus for a series of events, May 5th through 8th, 2022.

The Totem Pole Journey is led by members of the Lummi Nation and the House of Tears Carvers. The 2022 Totem Pole Journey is the latest in a dozen journeys conducted over the past 20 years. The 2022 journey builds upon, strengthens, and reaffirms the growing, Indigenous-led environmental movement across the Pacific Northwest that began with a successful campaign to oppose proposed fossil fuels projects in the region.



Photo credit: <https://www.facebook.com/totempolejourney>



Photo credit: <https://www.facebook.com/totempolejourney>

The events held over the weekend included a Science in Ceremony colloquium (above), with guest speakers Jay Julius W'tot Lhem (Lummi), Master Carver Jewell James (Lummi), JoDe Goudy (Yakama), and UO philosophy professor Scott Pratt in a panel discussion facilitated by Kurt Russo; a presentation of Arts, Science, and Ceremony; a salmon bake (left); and an outdoor evening film screening of *Whale People: Protectors of the Sea*.



Photo credit: <https://www.facebook.com/totempolejourney>



Photo credit: <https://www.facebook.com/totempolejourney>

# Research & Storytelling

## Public Lands Project

Through the Public Lands Field School, CEF explores how attachment to specific places—through recreational use, hunting/fishing, logging, and ranching/agricultural work—shape political and cultural affiliations, what the future of America’s public lands might be, and how the history of public lands intersects with environmental justice issues regarding Indigenous land sovereignty and socioeconomic class. We seek to discover what kinds of cross-partisan approaches devoted to land management have been models of democratic processes, and how best to find political and cultural middle ground. This Field School brings faculty and graduate students on extended field trips to conduct oral history interviews with land users. To prepare for these interviews, we have trained in decolonial oral history practice and have obtained two tribal research permits from the Burns Paiute Tribe. To date, we have interviewed 54 Oregonians. We have also taken eight UO faculty members, a post-doctoral scholar, a visiting scholar, and ten UO graduate students with us on our journey, and their participation has brought a diversity of views, experiences, and expertise into our conversations.



Photo by Sarah Stapleton



## Data Storytelling

The Center for Environmental Futures teamed up with the Penn Program in Environmental Humanities’ Data Refuge project at the University of Pennsylvania to offer Data Storytelling from the Pacific Northwest. Center co-directors Stephanie LeMenager, Marsha Weisiger, and dissertation fellow Hayley Brazier presented stories by ranchers and land managers regarding their relationships with Oregon’s public lands. We also told the stories of arborglyphs that record the history of Basque herders in southwestern Oregon, a history largely unwritten except for the names, dates, and often erotic drawings found in secluded stands of aspen trees throughout southwest Oregon and parts of Nevada and California. Our image of the arborglyphs exemplifies how data can be written into the land itself, through centuries and indeed millennia of use by Indigenous nations and immigrant herders. For Oregonians, we’ve found that the most important “data” are relationships with their communities and the land itself.

# Student Research Awards

CEF awarded \$1,000 each to 10 UO undergraduates for honors thesis research projects in any area of the environmental humanities. In 2020, CEF also awarded \$500 to 5 UO undergraduates who participated in UO's Undergraduate Research Symposium, which empowers undergraduates to share their ideas, discoveries, and artistic work with the campus and the local community. CEF awarded \$500 to each of the five students for their posters and oral presentations.

## 2020 Undergraduate Honors Thesis and Research Awards in the Environmental Humanities

**Lydia Angel:** Water Conflict in the Klamath: How a River Shapes the Land and the Community

**Jordan Barton:** Juliana v. United States: Climate Change, Youth, and the Law

**Rachel Connor:** 100 Years of Malaria in Zanzibar

**Momo Wilms-Crowe:** "Desde Abajo, Como Semilla": Narratives of Puerto Rican Food Sovereignty as Embodied Decolonial Resistance

**Jordan Harden:** Understanding Native Hawaiian Land Relations through Kanaka Maoli Literature

**Julia Lui:** Quantifying Diabetes Disparities Related to American Indian and Alaskan Native Residency on Reservations

**Cal Penkauskas:** Hogs and Hazelnuts: A Win-win Scenario for Oak Conservation and Organic Agriculture

**Siena Polk:** Fossil Fuel Landscapes in Agriculture

**Jasmin Tribolet:** Race and the Environmental Movement in Oregon (1960-present): Case Studies

**Bethan Tyler:** The Radical Lyric: Claude McKay and W.S. Merwin

## 2021 Undergraduate Honors Thesis and Research Awards in the Environmental Humanities

**Sydney Balderston:** Catalysts to Change: Identifying Determinants of Climate Action

**Rachel Conner:** 100 Years of Malaria Prevalence in Zanzibar, East Africa

**Anika Graack:** Comparison and Analysis of Translated Spanish COVID-19 Public Health Resources

**Ally Grimaldi:** "Beef It's What's For Dinner": An Analysis of Beef-Driven Powerlessness as It Relates to Food Insecurity, Climate Change, and Advertising in the U.S.

**Rachel Hess:** Overbuilt and Undeserving: Livability Ethics of Eugene's Minor Arterial Corridors

**Ryan Laws:** An Analysis in National Park Controversies to Create a More Insulated and Protected National Park Service for the Benefit of All Americans

**Mason Leavitt:** Money Does Grow on Trees: Food Tourism, Aestheticization, and White Supremacy in Hood River Valley

**Margery Price:** Recycling Greywater Using Volcanic Rocks from the Pacific Northwest

**Hannah Sebring:** Disney as Eco-Literature: The Need for Accessible Environmental Narratives

**Xitlali Torres:** Planning for Climate Change: A Tribal Perspective in two Climate Adaptation Plans

## 2020 Undergraduate Research Symposium Awards

**Jaemie Bynum & Alexandra Acosta-Torres:** COVID-19, Climate Change, and Collages

**Michaela Fishback:** Endemic Serpentine Grassland Plant Communities amid Environmental Changes

**Abby Keep:** Peace Canal: Conflict, Cooperation, and the Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance

**Amy Shannon:** Alutiiq Use of Birds at Rice Ridge, Kodiak Island

**Cal Penkauskas:** Hogs and Hazelnuts

# Faculty Research Awards

## 2020 Summer Faculty Research Awards

**Nina Amstutz**

*Avian Aesthetics Before and After Darwin*

**Marcel Brousseau**

*Hyperborders: Cultural Techniques of the Trans-American Borderlands*

**Anne Kreps**

*Apocalyptic Ecologies in New Christian Religions*

**Theresa May**

*WaterWays: Stories about Oregon Tribal Water Rights and Lifeways*

**Peter Walker**

*Community-Based Water Planning and the Culture of Collaboration in Harney County, Oregon*



## 2021 Summer Faculty Research Awards

**Jon Bellona, Bailey Hilgren, and Lucas Silva**

*Soundscapes of Socioecological Succession: An Interdisciplinary Record of Resilience to Wildfire*

**Leigh Johnson**

*A Political Ecology of Prison Labor in Oregon Forests*

**Jenifer Presto**

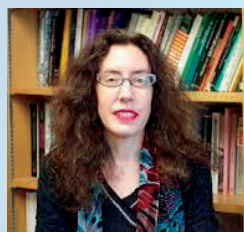
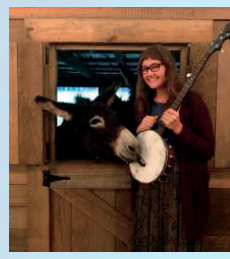
*Landscape of Disaster: Italy and the Russian Modernist Imagination*

**Sarah D. Wald**

*Diversity Outdoors: Equity and Environmental Justice in Outdoor Recreation and Public Lands Advocacy*

**Peter Walker**

*Wildfire Resistance, Resilience, and Collaboration: Bringing the High Desert Partnership Model to Western Oregon*





Postdoctoral Scholar



**María Belén Norona:**

*Weaving Body-territories of Extraction & Hope*

Dissertation Fellows



**Tianna Bruno**

*Environmental Injustice and Black Sense of Place in the Socio-Biophysical Afterlife of Slavery*

**Hayley Brazier**

*A Journey to the Pacific Seafloor—and the Technologies Hidden within Its Depths*

Visiting Scholar



**Heather Davis**

*Heather Davis is an assistant professor of Culture and Media at Eugene Lang College, The New School, in New York. Her current book project traces the ethology of plastic and its links to petrocapiatalism.*



Photo by Jesse Noone

# Understories Writers' Workshops

Since 2019, faculty members and graduate students from UO and from across the country, in fields as diverse as history, literature, philosophy, art history, geography, sound art, and urban design and planning, have gathered each summer to learn the building blocks of good narrative non-fiction: well-wrought characters, setting, action, the passage of time, strong verbs, pacing, and narrative structure.



**2020 Workshop**  
**William deBuys**, Writer in Residence

William deBuys, former Guggenheim Fellow, is a conservationist and independent scholar-writer. He is the author of ten acclaimed and prize-winning books, one of which, *River of Traps*, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.



**2021 Workshop**  
**Kerri Arsenault**, Writer in Residence

Kerri Arsenault is a contributing editor of *Orion* magazine and author of the prize-winning book, *Mill Town*. She founded the Environmental Storytelling Studio at Brown University.



**2022 Workshop**  
**Jenny Price**, Writer in Residence

Jenny Price is a public writer and artist and a co-founder of the LA Urban Rangers. She is the author of the acclaimed *Stop Saving the Planet!: An Environmental Manifesto* and *Flight Maps: Adventures with Nature in Modern America*.



## Praise for Understories

*I learned so much in this workshop! . . . I have a new feel for my writing, and I look forward to developing this skill further. — Pricilla Solis Ybarra, University of North Texas*

*The Understories Workshop was a wonderful experience! I really felt like I got the tools I was looking for to push my work forward—to write more precisely and with more power. I couldn't believe how much every single writer grew doing the workshop. I'd recommend it to anyone hoping to become a better writer.—Wendy Wagner, professional writer, Portland, Oregon*

*The Understories Writers' Workshop gave me the best writing tips and techniques I've received in two decades. And more than writing strategies, it motivated me to write more and gave me the confidence to share my material with broader audiences. The workshop surprised me, giving me much more than I had even hoped. . . . Thanks to CEF for organizing this workshop and for bringing a superb teacher, Bill deBuys, who guided and taught us expertly.—Mark Carey, University of Oregon*

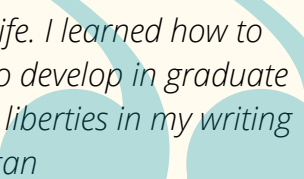
*I learned more in this workshop than any book on writing has ever taught me. I left with a better understanding of how to be a compelling storyteller, which is the goal of all writers.—Hayley Brazier, University of Oregon*

*The Understories Workshop with Jenny Price provided me with much-needed space to reflect on the craft of writing and on my practice as a writer. I feel so grateful to have spent this time alongside inspiring scholars in such a regenerative environment.—Alexandra LaKind, Independent Scholar and Artist, Chicago*

*"This workshop with other scholars from across the disciplines and led by Kerri Arsenault was truly transformative. I cannot overstate what a radical difference this workshop has made in my writing and research. Beyond how this benefited me individually, I am excited by the community that we formed and cannot wait to see how we continue working together." —Kathleen Powers Conti, historic preservation consultant, Austin, Texas*

*"My experience in the Understories Writers' Workshop was a career boost. It gave me the confidence, community, and tools that I needed to pursue my aspirations of a writing career in environmental humanities. As a young scholar pursuing a career in academia, the workshop was invaluable." —Annalee Ring, University of Oregon*

*The workshop was one of the most generative experiences of my professional life. I learned how to develop a critical eye for language and clarity in my writing—skills I expected to develop in graduate school but never found the opportunity. I now feel empowered to take creative liberties in my writing and engage substantially broader audiences. —Vyta Pivo, University of Michigan*



# Education

The **Undergraduate Minor in the Environmental Humanities** helps students to understand the environment and the human condition through interdisciplinary scholarship in the humanities and allied disciplines. Through interpretation, argumentation, storytelling, and the arts, students reflect on the interactions between humans and their environments over time and among different cultures, grapple with complex moral and ethical issues, think critically about the world around us, and help to transform our environmental futures through imaginative and creative projects. This minor focuses on how humanities disciplines and the arts can contribute to understandings of environmental change, environmental ethics and politics, environmental justice, climate justice, equitable, sustainable futures, and the long histories of colonialism and racism. The minor requires 24 credits from an approved list of courses.



The **Graduate Certificate in the Environmental Humanities** provides an interdisciplinary humanities-centered foundation for work in a wide array of environmental fields and in the academic field of the Environmental Humanities. It requires 24 credits from an approved list of courses, as well as the successful presentation of a Terminal Project. For the Terminal Project, students must produce a public-facing, creative project drawing on two or more disciplines, in consultation with two project advisors. It may be related to the thesis/dissertation but must be distinctive in its expression.

## Environmental Justice Curriculum Guide

As a spin-off from the EJ Webinar Series and the EJ Summit, CEF partnered again with Beyond Toxics to create an Environmental Justice Curriculum Guide, aimed at high school students. Sarah Stapleton, an assistant professor in Education Studies at the University of Oregon, was joined by two master teachers, Matt Reed and Sarah Ruggiero Kirby. Matt Reed is a social studies teacher and instructional coach for Portland Public Schools, an adjunct instructor at Lewis & Clark College, and a nationally recognized curriculum developer regarding the environment, peace, and social justice. Sarah Ruggiero Kirby is the former co-director of the Rachel Carson Academy for Natural Resources at Churchill High School and the secondary science Teacher on Special Assignment for the Eugene 4J school district. Educational modules included “Fire, Wildland Urban Interface, and Toxins Left Behind Fire Impacts Beyond the Forest,” “Urban Heat Islands and Climate Justice,” and “Does Green Eugene Have an Environmental Justice Problem?” “The Mystery of Illahee,” and “The Environmental Justice Stories Mixer.”

This CEF-supported project catalyzed a larger, ongoing collaboration between Beyond Toxics and the educational team, supported by the Gray Family Foundation and the UO Environmental Initiative. The “West Eugene Environmental Justice Case Initiative” held a weeklong workshop in June 2022 with a team of nine educators and will publish that curriculum for Oregon educators in Fall 2022.



Photo Credit: Beyond Toxics

## Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL)



Photo from <https://sail.uoregon.edu/>

In collaboration with the Environmental Studies Program, CEF engaged with roughly a dozen high school students to encourage them to prepare for college and inspire them to study the environmental humanities. This was part of the university-wide SAIL program, aimed at recruiting underrepresented populations and first-generation college students to UO.

# Who We Are

The University of Oregon's Center for Environmental Futures traces its beginnings to 2014, when scholars in English, history, and philosophy formed the Environmental Humanities Collective. Following two highly attended symposia that the group organized, CEF officially launched in the fall of 2016, with support from the College of Arts and Sciences.

None of these programs would have been possible without our tremendous faculty, staff, and graduate students, who do much of the actual work of organizing and presenting these programs, along with our community partners. We especially want to thank all of the members of our Steering Committee, Beyond Toxics, Adell Amos, Sue Arbuthnot, Lisa Arkin, John Arroyo, Karen Bangle, Hayley Brazier, Mark Carey, Haley Case-Scott, Vidusha Devasthali, Cheryl Ernst, Monica Guy, Rachael Lee, Kathy Lynn, Alli Magee, Richard Margerum, Briana Meier, Alison Mildrexler, Steve Mital, Erin Moore, Barbara Muraca, Sherri Nelson, Jesse Noone, Aimee Okotie-Oyekan, Nate Otjen, Zac Provant, Laura Pulido, Alai Reyes-Santos, Jamie Rivas, Gordon Sayre, Emily Eliza Scott, Cathy Soutar, Sarah Stoeckl, Alayne Switzer, Sarah Wald, Richard Wilhelm, and Kylie Young.

Finally, we thank Karen Ford, Bruce Blonigen, Andrew Marcus, Paul Peppis, Patrick Phillips, Michael Schill, Harry Wonham, and Louise "Mollie" Westling, whose support and inspiration have made CEF possible. We also want to acknowledge the inspiration offered by our colleagues at the University of Wisconsin's Center for Culture, History, and Environment; the Penn Program in the Environmental Humanities; the Oregon Humanities Center; the Environmental Arts and Humanities Initiative at Oregon State University; the Center for Land Use Interpretation; and the L.A. Urban Rangers.

We hope that you, too, will join us in our efforts to address the legacies of the past and understand contemporary environmental issues through the environmental humanities. We welcome your participation and your support.



Photo from Zachary Provant

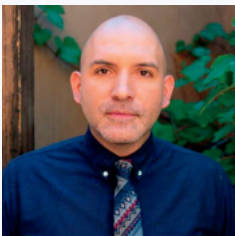
## CEF Co-Directors

**Stephanie LeMenager** is the Barbara and Carlisle Moore Professor of English and Professor of Environmental Studies. Her publications include the books *Living Oil: Petroleum Culture in the American Century* (2014), *Manifest and Other Destinies* (2005), and *Environmental Criticism for the Twenty-First Century* (2011). Her co-edited collection *Teaching Climate Change in the Humanities* addresses climate change pedagogy, and her co-edited, four-volume collection, *Literature and Environment: Critical and Primary Sources*, offers a history of the interdisciplinary field of the environmental humanities through the one hundred most influential published articles in the field. LeMenager is a founding editor and current advisory board member of *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities*, the first environmental humanities journal to be based in the United States.



**Marsha Weisiger** is the Julie and Rocky Dixon Chair of U.S. Western History and an associate professor of history and environmental studies. Her scholarship focuses primarily on the environmental history of the American West. She is the author of *Dreaming of Sheep in Navajo Country* (2009) which won four awards, including the Norris and Carol Hundley Award and the Hal Rothman Book Award, and *Land of Plenty: Oklahomans in the Cotton Fields of Arizona, 1933-1942*. She is co-founder and co-coordinator of the Cascadia Environmental History Collaborative, a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians, a member of the Executive Committee of the American Society for Environmental History, and past president of the American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch.

## JFI Co-Directors



**John C. Arroyo** is an Assistant Professor in Engaging Diverse Communities in the School of Planning, Public Policy, and Management. Arroyo's research focuses on the political and cultural dimensions of immigrant-centered built environments in emerging gateways. He is a governor-appointed member of the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation and currently serves on the boards of the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities, the Public Humanities Network of the Consortium for Humanities Centers and Institutes, and the School for Advanced Research.



**Alai Reyes-Santos** is the founder of the ceremonial space *Ilé Estrella de los Mares* and an equity and inclusion consultant. She is the author of *Our Caribbean Kin: Race and Nation in the Neoliberal Antilles* (2015). Her manuscript-in-progress, *Oceanic Whispers, Secrets She Never Told*, intervenes in conversations about restorative justice and community healing through a Black Caribbean epistemological lens. An award-winning teacher, Dr. Reyes-Santos recently received the 2015 Ersted Distinguished Teaching Award.

# CEF Graduate Employees

The Center for Environmental Futures has been facilitated by numerous talented Graduate Employees and Research Assistants over the years each with varying degrees of skill sets and passions. The opportunity to work for CEF has additionally acted as a catalyst for numerous employment opportunities for these growing careers.



**Nadya Barba Ramirez** (JFI Coordinating Assistant, 2021-22) is a Master of Public Administration student within the School of Planning, Public Policy, and Management. She has worked in local, state, and federal government offices; the private sector; and non-profit and community organizations, with a focus on immigration, voter registration, education, and underserved populations.



**Hayley Brazier** (CEF Research Assistant, 2019-20) is a PhD candidate in History. Her dissertation focuses on marine environmental history, with a particular emphasis on the influence of the Pacific seafloor in North American society. In addition to her research interests, she has a background in the digital humanities and public history. She is now a curator of natural history at the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon.



**Rachael Lee** (JFI Coordinating Assistant, 2021) is a Ph.D. student in English. She is the Digital Humanities Research Assistant for the Healers project, a digital ethnobotanical guide that highlights the traditional ecological knowledge of Caribbean women healers. Her own research focuses on urban wastelandic natures as key sites for examining neoliberal forms of environmental racism as well as imagining alternative futures. She grew up in Koreatown, Los Angeles, which has informed her affinity for urban natures and commitment to spatial justice.



**Jesse Noone** (CEF Publicity and Publications Manager, 2021-22) is a PPPM graduate student in Community and Regional Planning as well as a student in the Conflict and Dispute Resolution (CRES) Program (Environmental Conflict: Climate Change Specialization). His interest in environmental sustainability is informed by growing up in Oregon and Hawai'i, and his own work in winemaking and photography.





**Aimee Okotie-Oyekan** (CEF Publicity and Publications Manager, 2019-20) earned an MA with dual degrees in Environmental Studies and in Community and Regional Planning. Her Master's research investigates greenspace development as a catalyst of gentrification in underserved communities in Northwest Atlanta, Georgia. Aimee helped lead CEF's ongoing work for environmental justice in the spring and summer of 2020 by initiating a statement titled "CEF Stands for Racial and Social Justice," available on our webpage. She also adroitly moderated a panel discussion this year on anti-racism strategies with environmental justice scholar Dorceta Taylor, along with UO faculty Raul Lievanos and Sarah Wald.



**Nate Otjen** (CEF Research Assistant, 2020-21) completed his PhD in Environmental Sciences, Studies, and Policy in 2022. Beginning in September 2022, he will be a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the High Meadows Environmental Institute at Princeton University. He specializes in environmental justice studies, multispecies ethnography, autobiography studies, and contemporary life-writing literature.



**Zac Provant** (CEF Publicity and Publications Manager, 2020-21) is a PhD candidate in Environmental Sciences, Studies, and Policy. Focusing on the human experiences of increasingly frequent and severe rain-on-snow floods and avalanches in British Columbia and Alaska, his dissertation research addresses the impacts of changing snow on PNW mountain communities, centering on environmental justice, in an effort to expand our approaches to disaster risk in light of climate change.



**Maya Revell** (JFI Coordinating Assistant, 2021-22) is a doctoral student in Environmental Studies and Critical and Sociocultural Studies in Education. Her past research has focused on diversity in environmental nonprofits, food justice and access, and race in environmental education. Her current research focuses on the connections between Black studies, Black ecologies, and transformative climate education.

# CEF Steering Committee

**Stephanie LeMenager**, Co-Director (English and Environmental Studies)

**Marsha Weisiger**, Co-Director (History and Environmental Studies)

**Adell Amos**, Director, UO Provost's Environmental Initiative (College of Law)

**Lisa Arkin**, Executive Director, Beyond Toxics

**John Arroyo**, Planning, Public Policy, and Management

**Mark Carey**, Director, Environmental Studies Program (Geography and Environmental Studies)

**Kate Mondloch**, History of Art and Architecture

**Nicolae Morar**, Environmental Studies and Philosophy

**Barbara Muraca**, Philosophy and Environmental Studies

**Jennifer O'Neal**, Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies

**Scott Pratt**, Philosophy

**Laura Pulido**, Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies; Geography

**Gordon Sayre**, English and Folklore

**Emily Eliza Scott**, Art History and Environmental Studies

**Sarah Wald**, Environmental Studies and English

**Richard York**, Sociology

## Thanks to Our Supporters

### **Mellon Foundation**

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation generously awarded a \$600,000 Higher Education Grant to support the operation of CEF for three years, through AY 2020-21. This significant award effectively launched the Center for Environmental Futures and made it possible for us to begin offering a wide array of programming. The Mellon Foundation most recently awarded CEF \$4.52 million to support the Pacific Northwest Just Futures Institute for Racial and Climate Justice, for the 2021-2023 calendar years. We are extremely honored and grateful for this support!

### **American Council of Learned Societies**

The American Council of Learned Societies awarded a \$141,000 Collaborative Research Award to Stephanie LeMenager and Marsha Weisiger for CEF's Field School project, *To Speak of Common Places: A People's History of Oregon's Public Lands*. This grant award ended in December 2020, but the work is ongoing.

### **UO Vice Provost for Research and Innovation**

The UO Vice Provost for Research and Innovation awarded \$25,000 to CEF as seed money for its Field School project.

### **College of Arts and Sciences**

The College of Arts and Sciences has provided generous support in the form of catering, course releases, facility rentals, fringe benefits, graduate tuition, budget and accounting support, office space, and general moral support.

## ***Please consider supporting the Center for Environmental Futures with a generous donation.***

The Center for Environmental Futures has developed a multi-faceted program to support Environmental Humanities research, education, and public programming for the University of Oregon and the broader community. But this operational funding will soon end with the sunsetting of our initial grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The new Mellon Foundation grant, which supports the PNW Just Futures Institute for Racial and Climate Justice, does not cover CEF's operational costs, student and faculty awards and fellowships, Understories Writers' Workshop, or public programming. To continue these vital programs, we need your help!

### **We seek funding for:**

- A named endowment to sustain the Center for Environmental Futures
- A digital project on Oregon's public lands
- The Understories Writers' Workshop
- CEF symposia
- Visual and theater arts programming
- Emerald Earth Film Festival
- Support for graduate and undergraduate student research awards and fellowships in the Environmental Humanities
- Support for faculty research in the Environmental Humanities

### **Planning for the future:**

Sarah Kanouse, "My Electric Genealogy" performance, October 13, 2022

Salish Sea Symposium, October 2022

William deBuys Lecture, Winter 2023

"Building a Multiracial Democracy in the American West" symposia, tentatively planned for 2022-23

"Indigenous Borderlands and the Environment" symposium, tentatively planned for 2023-24

Center for Environmental Futures  
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5212 University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403-5212

The **Center for Environmental Futures** is an interdisciplinary group of faculty and students that reflects a longstanding investment in environmentalism and social justice at the University of Oregon and in the larger Eugene community. Our mission is to encourage and support humanities, arts, and social sciences faculty and students in interdisciplinary environmental studies research and teaching, to encourage and support members of the community to participate in the University's environmental studies programming and problem-solving, and to cultivate relationships and build projects across disciplines and schools to address our most pressing environmental and social problems. We recognize, too, that problems of environment, justice, and culture call for a broad interdisciplinarity that includes the natural and physical sciences, communication and journalism, the arts and architecture, education, and law. The Center invites all disciplinary emphases and fields while foregrounding the importance of the humanities and social sciences to addressing environmental problems in ways that keep justice in its sights.

[cef.uoregon.edu](http://cef.uoregon.edu)



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