

ENVIRONMENT | JUSTICE | CULTURE

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURES

CEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2019

STORYTELLING

RESEARCH IN THE
ENVIRONMENTAL
HUMANITIES

AWARDS AND HONORS

ANDREW W. MELLON
FOUNDATION FUNDED
RESEARCH

FEATURED STORIES

New faculty, new offices , and more in store for 2020

Designed by Aimee Okotie-Oyekan

CONTENTS

- 2 A VISION FOR THE FUTURE
- 3 HONORING NATIVE PEOPLE
AND LANDS
- 4 STATEMENT ON RACIAL
JUSTICE
- 5 PRESENTATIONS AND
DISCUSSIONS
- 7 ENVIRONMENTAL
HUMANITIES: RESEARCH AND
STORYTELLING
- 13 UNDERGRADUATE
EDUCATION
- 15 AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS
- 21 WHO WE ARE



2019 | CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURES

A Vision for the Future

No future is inevitable. Yet we live in a moment where it seems that all we look forward to is loss—wildfires raging across the American West, the threat of a catastrophic earthquake on our Northwest Coast, record levels of extinction worldwide, and a disease pandemic tearing away at the seams of our public health system. 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. We support scholarship that changes the way that we do research in universities, so that collaboration, community engagement, clarity of ideas, and public impact are paramount. Our programs include a yearly writers' workshop, called "Understories," in which scholars from all fields of study, both students and faculty, are trained to write for public audiences, so that the value of their research can be shared among the broadest possible readership.

We also host a seasonal Field School, in which UO scholars take students out into communities all over Oregon in order to learn from experts—Oregon's citizenry—about pressing issues like the value of public lands and the role of conservation in the era of climate change. We believe that a public university needs to keep the flow of conversation open with the whole state, to remind the families of our students, and ourselves, that the University of Oregon is first and foremost a public resource.

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).

CEF STANDS FOR RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Hi Everyone,

As scholars and people concerned about the environment, we recognize the role of white supremacy and racial violence in structuring how certain bodies interact with the environment. The recent high profile events involving Black Americans—the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, the murder of Ahmaud Arbery by white vigilantes in South Georgia, Amy Cooper’s threats against Christian Cooper in Central Park—along with the countless other examples, demonstrate that Black Americans and other people of color do not have the same environmental freedoms that whites enjoy.

We implore everyone in our CEF community to use your positions to help others (and yourselves) understand the role of white supremacy in producing and reinforcing environmental injustices and the ways Black Americans and other communities of color have resisted and continue to resist this oppression.

With hope,

Aimee

Courtesy of Aimee Okotie-Oyekan. Inspired by the words of Jill Lindsey Harrison. For more on CEF's stance on racial and social justice, visit us on Twitter and Instagram (@cefuoregon).

Presentations and Discussions

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CLIMATE CHANGE KEYNOTE LECTURE

In collaboration with the Oregon Humanities Center, we kicked off the Western Humanities Association conference with the bi-annual Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change Keynote Lecture. Kathy Lynn (Researcher, Tribal Climate Change Project) and Mark Carey (Head, Environmental Studies Program and Professor of History, History Department and Clark Honors College) organized the event. Our speakers included:

Fawn R. Sharp (Quinault), President of the Quinault Indian Nation and President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). She formerly served as Managing Attorney, Lead Counsel, and Associate Judge for the Quinault Indian Nation government, and as an Administrative Law Judge for the Washington State Department of Revenue Tax Appeals Division. She has served as President of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Vice President of NCAI, and Chairman of the United States Department of the Interior Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform.



Fawn Sharp, Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change Lecture

Clarita Lefthand-Begay (Navajo Nation), Assistant Professor and Director of the Tribal Water Security Project at the Information School, University of Washington. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on the protection of indigenous knowledge in the United States, tribal water security, and climate health and resiliency.

LECTURE SERIES



Cannupa Hanska Luger

Cannupa Hanska Luger (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikira, Lakota), “*Social Engineering*” and “*Making Native Seed Balls for Oregon Ecological Restoration*” (with Ar-ti-fact: Exploring Indigeneity in the 21st Century exhibition, Museum of Natural History and Culture)

Lisa Brooks (Abenaki), Amherst College, “*Animacy, Adaptation, and the Anthropocene in Early America*” (Keynote lecture for the Society for Early Americanists)

Beka Economopolous and **Jason Jones**, “*Natural History Museum*”

Bathsheba Demuth, Brown University, “*Ethical Choices of Whales: Bowheads, Hunters, and the Nature of History*”

Nancy Langston, Michigan Technological University, “*A Voyage to Mongolia’s Reindeer Herders: Conservation in a Changing Climate*” (History Pub)

EMERALD EARTH FILM FESTIVAL: LATINX ENVIRONMENTALISMS

Emerald Earth Film Festival



Latinx Environmentalisms

4/10/19, 7:00 p.m.

Food Chains (2014, dir. Sanjay Rawal). Discussion and Q&A follows, moderated by Sarah D. Wald and David J. Vázquez.

4/24/19, 7:30 p.m.

We the Animals (2018, dir. Jeremiah Zagar). Justin Torres, author of the novel *We the Animals*; the novel on which the film is based, will be available for a Q&A after the screening.

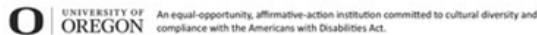
5/9/19, 7:30 p.m.

Sleep Dealer (2009, dir. Alex Rivera). Alex Rivera will be available for a Q&A after the screening.



All films screened at the Bijou Art Cinemas, 492 E 13th Ave, Eugene, Oregon

Co-sponsored by Department of English, Ethnic Studies, and the Center for Environmental Futures



An equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Emerald Earth Film Festival

Organized by **David Vazquez** and **Sarah Wald** and held at Eugene's Bijou Theater, this series of films focused on Latinx Environmentalisms. Two of the films included special guests from behind the scenes:

- *Food Chains* (documentary)
- *We the Animals*, with special guest **Justin Torres**, who wrote the novel on which the film was based
- *Sleep Dreams*, with special guest **Alex Rivera**, director



Laura Pulido

INTERDISCIPLINARITY 101

Since 2017, we have held gatherings each quarter to share works-in-progress by faculty and graduate students in the humanities, social sciences, arts, architecture, and education. This year's presenters included:

- **Hayley Brazier** (History, PhD candidate) and **Kate Huber** (English, PhD candidate), "*Ocean Pedagogies: Teaching History and Literature in the Study of the Sea*"
- **Beka Economopolous** and **Jason Jones**, Natural History Museum, "*Water Protectors: Museums and Movements*"
- **Dan Shtob** (Environmental Studies and Sociology PhD candidate) and **Jordon Besek** (Asst. Prof. of Sociology, University of Buffalo), "*How Legal Processes (Re)structure Environments*"
- **Laura Pulido** (Prof. of Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies, and Geography) "*Spectacular Racism and Environmental Deregulation in the Trump Era*"
- **Nancy Langston** (Prof. of Environmental History, Michigan Technological University), "*Environmental Humanities and the New Mobilities of the Anthropocene: Climate Change and Animal Migrations in the North*"
- **Jon Bellona** (Instructor of Music), "*Wildfire: An Environmental Sound Art Installation*"

Environmental Humanities: Research and Storytelling



L-R: Lucas Burke, Stephanie LeMenager, Briana Grossmann, Marsha Weisiger, and Dan Shtob on Crescent Beach, part of the Field School at Cannon Beach. Photo by Sarah Stapleton.

PUBLIC LANDS FIELD SCHOOL: THE PAST AND FUTURES OF OREGON'S PUBLIC LANDS

Through the Public Lands Field School, CEF is exploring

- 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,
- How the history of public lands intersects with environmental justice issues regarding indigenous land sovereignty and socioeconomic class,
- What kinds of cross-partisan venues devoted to land management decisions 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 (such as ranchers, loggers, and members of Native communities), resource managers, applied scientists, and environmental activists. We have been trained in decolonial oral history practice and have obtained two tribal research permits from the Burns Paiute Tribe. So far we have interviewed 53 Oregonians. We have also taken eight UO faculty members, a postdoctoral scholar, a visiting scholar, and nine UO graduate students with us on our journey, and their participation has brought a diversity of views, experiences, and expertise into the conversations we have.



Diane Daggett, Wallowa County, relates her family's ranching history to Field School participants. Photo by Sue Arbuthnot.



CEF Field School participants enjoy s'mores at Cannon Beach. Photo by Sarah Stapleton.

Our aim is to record stories that reveal how Oregonians value public lands and how they have experienced the challenges of exercising stewardship over those lands. These interviews will also form the basis of a co-authored book by current CEF co-directors Stephanie LeMenager and Marsha Weisiger, *To Speak of Common Places*. In 2019, we returned to Wallowa County and Harney County and conducted a new Field School on the North Coast (Cannon Beach and Seaside).

Related to this project, professors LeMenager and Weisiger published "*Revisiting the Radical Middle (What's Left of It)*," the lead essay in a special issue on public lands in *Western American Literature*.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD SCHOOL

"[T]he field school presented an opportunity to see how experienced researchers practice their craft. . . . In addition to feeling like I was part of a team, the formal and informal coaching that I received lent encouragement and direction for my own research and my path as an academic." Dan Shtob, PhD candidate, Sociology



Dan Shtob and Stephanie LeMenager on hike to Crescent Beach as part of Field School at Cannon Beach. Photo by Sarah Stapleton.



Lina Aoyama and Stephanie LeMenager on a Field School stop in Antelope, Oregon.

In the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County . . . "Meeting and speaking with a variety of ranchers and government employees challenged and broadened some of my earlier perceptions of public land management." Hayley Brazier, PhD candidate, History

In Wallowa County . . . "I had a rich learning experience listening to people's passions, ways of life, and family histories. . . . It was a good time for me to think about how to do interdisciplinary work. I highly recommend Field School to any first-year graduate student who is new to Oregon." Lina Aoyama, PhD candidate, Biology



(L-R) Hayley Brazier, Stephanie LeMenager, Sue Arbuthnot, Marsha Weisiger, and Richard Wilhelm at the Malheur Refuge. Arbuthnot and Wilhelm are the videographers for the oral history project. Photo by Nancy Langston.

"It is often said that the environmental challenges we now face require solutions that cannot be delivered by any one field alone. However, we rarely see concrete steps being taken towards bringing different academic disciplines together to address real-world problems. I know of few projects that embody the ethos of interdisciplinary research as purposefully as CEF's Field School. . . . My team and I benefited greatly from that experience, which helped us refine our scientific questions and research hypotheses being tested across the Pacific Northwest. Lucas Silva, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies and Geography

"[Scientists] . . . rarely get the opportunity to address stakeholders since our work is often theoretical. [CEF's] field school helped me understand the value of interaction with stakeholders, and helped me see how my research might be better tuned to inform the concerns of land owners." Toby Maxwell, Postdoctoral Fellow, UO Institute of Ecology and Evolution



Tom Birkmaier, a Wallowa County rancher, with the CEF Field School

At Cannon Beach . . . "[T]his field school trip completely changed my perceptions of this place. Our interviews with historians, scientists, land managers, business-owners, and other members of the local community were also great opportunities for me to develop my own interview skills for future research. . . . I took away a deeper understanding of the complexities of what it means to have 'public beaches,' the unique interplay between ocean and inland forest environments, and the multifaceted efforts by the north coast communities to preserve this wondrous location." Lucas Burke, PhD candidate, History

"Visiting Harney County and interviewing local community members made it clear that alternate environmentalisms flourish in this region of Oregon. While this area is often abstracted to 'rural' or 'eastern' Oregon . . . and ignored as a site of environmental protest and action, the ranchers, community leaders, and members of the public voiced significant concern for the wellbeing of local habitats and people. This field school experience gave me a new appreciation for the local ecological work being done in this part of Oregon." Nate Otjen, PhD candidate, Environmental Studies and English



Zumwalt Prairie, Wallowa County. Photo by R. V. Taylor, Nature Conservancy

UNDERSTORIES WRITERS' WORKSHOP FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

For a week in August 2019, nine scholars in history, literature, philosophy, communications, sound art, and urban and social design worked with writer Karen Piper to learn to develop the building blocks of good narrative nonfiction: well-wrought characters, specific places, action, the passage of time, pacing, and a strong narrative arc. The workshop took place at the Silver Falls Resort and Conference Center, located within Silver Falls State Park, in Silverton, Oregon. Its incredible waterfalls and hiking trails make Silver Falls the crown jewel of Oregon's state parks. With generous funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the workshop was free of cost to all participants, with subsidized travel for those from institutions beyond Eugene.

Karen Piper, the Writer in Residence, is an award winning professor of literature and geography at the University of Missouri, Columbus, and a graduate of the University of Oregon. Piper is the author of *The Price of Thirst: Water Scarcity and the Coming Chaos*, which won the Next Generation Indie Book Award in current events, and *A Girl's Guide to Missiles: Growing Up in America's Secret Desert*, among other books. The Sierra Club honored her with a Sierra nature writing award.

Participating in the workshop were Katrina Maggiulli (UO PhD candidate, Environmental Studies and English), Paul Guernsey (recent UO PhD, Philosophy), Kyle Keeler (UO PhD candidate, Environmental Studies and English), Jess Brown (UO University Communications), Catherine McNeur (Assoc. Prof., History, Portland State University), Kairn Klieman (Assoc. Prof., History, University of Houston), Victoria Bradley Aquilone (PhD Candidate, English, University of Delaware), Erik DeLuca (Visiting Prof., sound art, Brown University), Samuel Holleran (urban and social designer, Ellery Studio, Berlin, Germany).



L-R: Katrina Maggiulli, Jess Brown, Eric DeLuca, and Torri Bradley Aquilone at the Understories Writers' Workshop for Public Engagement

STORIES FROM THE WORKSHOP

“I’ve become more confident in ‘setting scenes’ and using tricks of the public writing trade in my scholarly writing, and I think it’s improved my ability to engage my scholarly audience and set myself apart as a young writer. The group workshoping was more beneficial than I could have imagined, and even at its most difficult, it taught me to be humble and receive feedback with grace.” Victoria Bradley Aquilone, PhD candidate, English, University of Delaware



Karen Piper

“[T]he workshop had a profound impact on my research and writing habits. The invitation to make my writing intelligible to a public audience . . . challenged my argumentation style . . . [and] put an itch under my skin to write something that will be meaningful to more than just a few dusty academics. . . . This workshop also encouraged me to think of writing as a communal process rather than an individual and isolated project. At a time when interdisciplinarity and collaboration are nominally valued but collective authorship is infrequently fostered and recognized, this opportunity was incredibly valuable.” Paul Guernsey, recent UO graduate in Philosophy

“The workshop was valuable because it opened up a space to talk about writing in the broadest sense, and that’s rarely done in academia or in other professions that require a great deal of writing and research. . . . It was a great opportunity and a lovely setting! Really glad I did it.” Sam Holleran, writer, interdisciplinary artist, and designer, Ellery Studio, Berlin

“I liked being outdoors . . . and having the space to focus on what I was writing, why I was writing it, and how I wanted my writing to impact my audience. . . . I learned how to reframe how I was telling my stories to engage the reader. . . . [I learned] I have to be more vocal, especially as a person of color. With this workshop, I was able to refine my writing to be an even more effective advocate for the environment.” Jess Brown, UO Communications

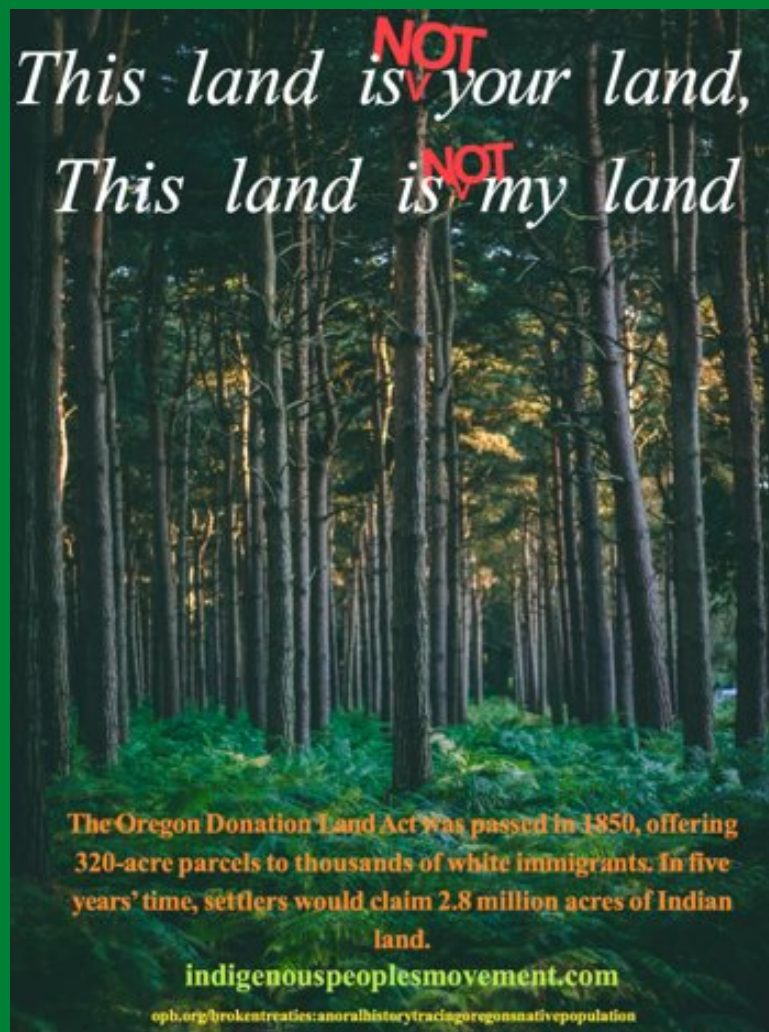


Understories Writers' Workshop participants. Back row: Karen Piper (resident writer), Erik DeLuca, Marsha Weisiger, Sam Holleran, Catherine McNeur, Kairn Klieman, Kyle Keeler, Paul Guernsey. Front row: Katrina Maggiulli, Jessica Brown, Victoria Bradley Aquilone.

Undergraduate Education



UO undergraduates in one of Stephanie LeMenager's popular classes. Photo by Studio McDermott.



Student posters produced for FIG on Environmental Justice

SAIL (SUMMER ACADEMY TO INSPIRE LEARNING)

In collaboration with the Environmental Studies Program, CEF co-director Marsha Weisiger and Hayley Brazier, a PhD candidate in history, engaged with more than 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.

FIG (FIRST YEAR INTEREST GROUP)

Jason Schreiner, Assistant Director for Graduate Programs with the Teaching Engagement Program, offered a First Year Interest Group on environmental justice, which was tied to ENV 201 Introduction to Environmental Studies: Humanities and ES 101 Introduction to Ethnic Studies and the theme of "Just Futures." FIGS are designed to offer twenty first-year undergraduates with an enhanced academic experience tied to two courses with an overarching theme.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS



Jon Bellona's *Wildfire* recreates the sounds of conflagrations like the "Camp Fire" that incinerated Paradise, California, in 2018

MELLON VISITING SCHOLAR

Nancy Langston spent Fall 2019 as the inaugural Mellon Visiting Scholar in the Environmental Humanities. Langston is the Distinguished Professor of Environmental History at Michigan Technological University. She trained both as an environmental historian and as an evolutionary biologist and ecologist. In addition to numerous professional journal articles, she has published four books. Two of those books focused on Oregon's environmental history, the prize-winning *Forest Dream, Forest Nightmares: The Paradox of Old Growth in the Inland West* (University of Washington Press, 1995), which examined the history of forest policy and the cause of the forest health crisis in Oregon's Blue Mountains, and *Where Land and Water Meet: A Western Landscape Transformed* (University of Washington Press, 2003), which explored watershed restoration, the creation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, and adaptive management.



Nancy Langston (center) with two of her companions in Mongolia



From Nancy Langston's "Vanya in the Anthropocene"

Her third book, *Toxic Bodies: Hormone Disruptors and the Legacy of DES* (Yale, 2010), considered how and why endocrine disrupting chemicals have saturated our bodies and our environments, and her most recent book, *Sustaining Lake Superior: An Extraordinary Lake in a Changing World* (Yale, 2017), focused on the interconnected histories of the health of watersheds, humans, and forests in the context of climate change.

Langston is a former president of the American Society for Environmental History and a former editor of the field's flagship journal, *Environmental History*. Among her many honors have been the King Carl XVI Gustaf Professor of Environmental Science at Umeå University, Sweden, and fellowships from the Fulbright Program, the Marshall Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the National Humanities Center, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Council on Learned Societies.

While in residence at UO, she worked on a new project, "New Mobilities of the Anthropocene: Climate Change, Toxics, and Animal Migrations," focusing on two iconic migratory species, woodland caribou and common loons, and on a children's book about climate change.

MELLON POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP



M Jackson

M Jackson is the inaugural Mellon Post-Doctoral Scholar for the 2019-20 academic year. A glaciologist and cultural geographer, M earned her doctorate in geography from the University of Oregon, where she examined how climate change transformed people and glacier communities in Iceland. She is a National Geographic Society Explorer (and an Arctic Expert for NGS), a TED fellow, and a three-time Fulbright Fellow (two of which were joint awards with the National Science Foundation). Her award-winning memoir, *While Glaciers Slept: Being Human in a Time of Climate Change* (Green Writers Press, 2015), traced the parallel stories of what happens when the climates of a family and a planet change. Her second book, based on her doctoral dissertation, *The Secret Lives of Glaciers* (Green Writers Press, 2019) explored the profound impacts of glacier change on the human and physical geography of Iceland. While in residence at UO, she has worked on a new book project, *Living Blue: Stories of Women and Ice* (written in both English and Icelandic), based on ethnographic interviews with Icelandic women, and she worked on a novel about climate change.

MELLON DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS

Allison Ford (Sociology) is completing a dissertation, “Environmental Politics at the End of the World—Prepping as Environmental Practice,” which explores the practice of prepping, in which individuals and families prepare to respond to emergencies, disasters, or the collapse of society, without relying on social institutions such as the state or markets. Based on ethnographic data (message boards, blogs, and social media), Ford argues that prepping is an environmental practice because it involves renegotiating the material flows of food, water, energy, waste, and other facets of material life.



Allison Ford (top), Rebekah Sinclair (bottom)

Rebekah Sinclair (Philosophy) is completing a dissertation, “Species Trouble: A Pluralist Problematization of the Discourse of Species,” which argues that the species concept is an ethically problematic, historically specific social and political construction. Working at the intersection of social philosophy, the environmental humanities, biology, and the philosophy of biology, Sinclair’s dissertation develops an interdisciplinary theoretical framework for demonstrating both that “species” is a social construct and that we can effectively question and dismantle it.



Steven Beda (top left), Brian Klopotek (bottom left), Alaii Reyes-Santos (top right), Sara Fatimah (bottom right)

MELLON FACULTY RESEARCH STIPENDS

- **Steven Beda** (History), "Widow Makers: A History of Workers, Nature, and Environmental Conflict in Pacific Northwest Timber Country, 1900 to the Present"
- **Jon Bellona** (Music/audio production), "Wildfire"
- **Brian Klopotek** (Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies), "Three Sisters in Willamette Valley: Plants & Transplants in Kalapuya Ilihi"
- **Alaii Reyes-Santos** (Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies), "Oregon's Water Futures: Storytelling About Climate Change"
- **Emily Eliza Scott** (History of Art and Architecture), "Uneven Geology: Notes from the Field of Contemporary Art"

MELLON UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS RESEARCH STIPENDS

- **Sara Fatimah**, "Climate Change, Food Security, and Out-migration in Afghanistan." Advisors: Leigh Johnson, Geography; Kathie Carpenter, International Studies
- **David Grabicki**, "Transformative Labor and Transforming Environments: Oregon Land Use and Environmental Labor in the 20th Century." Advisors: Steven Beda, History; Rebecca Lewis, PPPM
- **Haley Nicholson**, "Reconciling Generational Sovereignty and Environmental Preservation: *Juliana v. United States*." Advisors: John Davidson, Political Science; Mark Carey, History



Thesis award winners. Top left to bottom right: Hayley Nicholson, Eleanor Williams, David Grabicki, Scott Ziegler, Hannah Wolf, Jenna-Marie Smallwood

- **Annalee Nock**, “Planet of Love: Queer Futurity in the Age of Climate Change.” Advisors: Corbett Upton, English; Katherine Kelp-Stebbins, English
- **Jenna-Marie Smallwood**, “Investigating the Relationship Between Corruption and Climate Change.” Advisors: Ronald B. Mitchell, Political Science; Craig M. Kauffman, Political Science
- **Eleanor Williams**, “Organizing Against Environmental Reproductive Injustice.” Advisors: Brian Klopotek, Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies; Mark Carey, History

- **Scott Zeigler**, “Antagonistic River: The Agency of Nature in Northwest Literature.” Advisors: Gordon Sayre, English; Stephanie LeMenager, English
- **Hannah Wolf**, “Nature, Industrialization, and Romance in Richard Wagner’s *Das Rheingold*.” Advisors: Lori Kruckenberg, Musicology; Marian Smith, Musicology
- **Nicole Ritson**, “Urban Metamorphosis: Eugene, Oregon’s Fluid Urban Identity.” Advisors: Steven Beda, History; John McCole, History

MELLON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PRIZES

- **Kymmi Donaghue** (Sociology), Poster: “Farm Animal Valuation: An Analysis of the Variation in Values of College Students Surrounding Farm Animals and the Way Humans Relate to Them”
- **Sofia Bermudez-Eredia** (International Studies), Poster: “Colonialism, Vulnerability, and Mortality: How the U.S. Response to Hurricane Maria Reveals Existing Racial Hierarchies and Racial Violence in the United States”
- **Christa Huddleston** (Journalism), Poster: “Lane County Publications’ Coverage of Forest Fires and Smoke in Relation to Climate Change”



Kymmi Donaghue with her poster (top), Sofia Bermudez-Eredia (middle), Christa Huddleston (bottom)



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 came into being 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, the Burns Paiute Tribe, Lina Aoyama, Sue Arbuthnot, Hayley Brazier, Lucas Burke, Mark Carey, Monica Guy, Hannah Cutting-Jones, Ryan Tucker Jones, Katie Lynch, Kathy Lynn, Alison Mildrexler, Karen Piper, Jamie Rivas, Gordon Sayre, Jason Schreiner, Emily Eliza Scott, Dan Shtob, Cathy Soutar, Sarah Stapleton, David Vazquez, Sarah Wald, and Richard Wilhelm. 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.

We would like to offer special thanks to Karen Ford, Bruce Blonigen, Andrew Marcus, Paul Peppis, Michael Schill, 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 Los Angeles Urban Rangers.

CEF Staff

*Co-Directors Stephanie LeMenager
and Marsha Weisiger*



Stephanie LeMenager and Marsha Weisiger

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* (2017) addresses climate change pedagogy, and her forthcoming Bloomsbury four-volume collection, *Literature and Environment*, 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. She is a recent recipient of the Radcliffe Institute Fellowship for Advanced Study, where she began writing her latest book, about climate change, fiction, and lies. Her work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, *Climate Wire*, and on CBC radio and NPR.

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* (University of Washington Press, 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*, which won the Angie Debo Prize. She has also written on wolf reintroduction, gendering environmental history, environmental justice, and architectural history. Her work has received two faculty research fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a Burkhardt Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, and a King Fellowship from the Clements Center for Southwest Studies. 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 President-Elect of the American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch.

Graduate Employees



Lucas Burke

Lucas Burke, Research Assistant, 2018-19, is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History. He is the co-author, with Judson Jeffries, of *The Portland Black Panthers: Empowering Albina and Remaking a City*, which was based on his M.A. thesis.

Burke's dissertation, tentatively titled "The Cascadian Divide: Nature, Modern Conservatism, and the Republican Party in the Emerald City's Empire," explores the changing politics of modern conservatism in eastern Washington through a political and environmental framework. Focusing on the complex interchanges between evolving industries, environmental change, and regional political power struggles, this project reimagines the national narrative of American conservatism in the late twentieth century



Colin Rosemont

Colin Rosemont (Publicity and Publications Manager, 2018-19) is a writer and documentary filmmaker, who earned his M.S. in the Environmental Studies Program. His thesis project was a film about archaeological field workers. He co-produced the film *Tejon Pow Wow* and is presently at work on a new film, *Bound*.

Hayley has taught courses on race and ethnicity in US environmental history, the national parks, and most recently, on oceanic history at the Sea Education Association in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. In addition to her research interests, she has a background in the digital humanities and public history.



Aimee Okotie-Oyekan

Aimee Okotie-Oyekan (Publicity and Publications Manager, 2019-20) is a second-year graduate student pursuing 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.

New Offices!

At last we have a physical space in Agate Hall (Room 206), with the generous support of the College of Arts and Sciences, Bruce Blonigen, Karen Ford, and Cathy Souter. It is a lovely space with a private office for visiting scholars and workspace for our fellows and graduate employees, with adjacent access to private work pods, a kitchen, and a conference room. Watch for word of our official opening after the UO Campus reopens.



Hayley Brazier

Hayley Brazier (Research Assistant, 2019-20) is a PhD candidate in the Department of History and a research assistant for the Center for Environmental Futures. Her dissertation focuses on marine environmental history, with a particular emphasis on the influence of the Pacific seafloor in North American society.

New Faculty in Environmental Humanities

CEF said a fond farewell to architect Brook Muller, who moved to the University of North Carolina, but celebrated two new faculty members who have already helped take CEF in exciting new directions. They were part of a “cluster hire” in the environmental humanities, advocated by CEF, in coordination with the Environmental Studies Program, the History of Art and Architecture Department, and the Philosophy Department.



Emily Eliza Scott

Emily Eliza Scott, Assistant Professor of Art History and Environmental Studies. Scott is a founder of the Los Angeles Urban Rangers, a group of artists and scholars who creatively interpret domestic and urban landscapes in the guise of National Park rangers. Her scholarship focuses on art and design practices that engage ecological issues. She is the co-editor of *Critical Landscapes: Art, Space, and Politics* (2015). She came to UO from a postdoctoral fellowship at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich).



Barbara Muraca

Barbara Muraca, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies. Her work focuses on human-nature relationships and the valuation of ecosystems. A major voice in European environmental philosophy, Muraca is co-director of the International Association for Environmental Philosophy (IAEP). She has also been lead author of the IPBES assessment on multiple values of nature (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) since summer 2018.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Stephanie LeMenager, Co-Director (English and Environmental Studies)
Marsha Weisiger, Co-Director (History and Environmental Studies)
Lisa Arkin, Executive Director, Beyond Toxics
Mark Carey, Director, Environmental Studies Program (History and Environmental Studies; Honors College)
Kate Mondloch (Interim Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School; Art History)
Nicolae Morar (Environmental Studies and Philosophy)
Barbara Muraca (Philosophy and Environmental Studies)
Jennifer O’Neal, University Historian and Archivist (Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies)
Scott Pratt, Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (Philosophy)
Laura Pulido, Head, Indigenous Race and Ethnic Studies Department; Geography
Gordon Sayre, English and Folklore
Emily Eliza Scott, Art History and Environmental Studies
David Vazquez, Head, English Department; Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies
Sarah Wald, Environmental Studies and English

MISSION

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 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.

WHAT ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES?

The Environmental Humanities take an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the environment and the human condition through storytelling, interpretation, argumentation, and the visual arts. Drawing on the scholarship of the Humanities and allied disciplines—history, literature, philosophy, art and architecture and their histories, anthropology, sociology, historical and cultural geography—in conversation with the natural sciences, the Environmental Humanities reflect on the interactions between humans and their environments through time and among different cultures, encourage us to grapple with complex moral and ethical issues, cultivate empathy, prompt us to think critically about the world around us in an era of profound environmental change, and help us to transform our environmental futures through imaginative and creative projects which remind us that no future is inevitable, that the future is ours to make. Importantly, the Environmental Humanities help us to understand the interrelationships between the effects of climate change and environmental injustice and a long history of colonialism and racism. Finally, the Environmental Humanities promote problem-solving and activism in hopes of building a more environmentally sustainable and just world.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Andrew W. 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. The Mellon Foundation's mission is to strengthen and promote the important role of the humanities and the arts in deepening our understanding of the human condition and experience. This significant award effectively launched the Center for Environmental Futures and makes it possible for us to begin offering a wide array of programming. 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*. The ACLS is a private, nonprofit federation of scholarly organizations and one of the leading supporters of scholarship in the humanities and related social sciences.

UO Vice Provost for Research and Innovation

The UO Vice Provost for Research and Innovation awarded \$25,000 to the Center for Environmental Futures as seed money for its Field School project. The OVPRI's mission is, in part, to support research excellence and launch new initiatives that have high potential to attract external funding and benefit the wider community beyond the university.

College of Arts and Sciences

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

*Please consider supporting the Center for Environmental Futures with a generous donation.
We seek funding for:*

- A named Environment and Society Building, which will house the Center for Environmental Futures, the Environmental Studies Program, the Geography Department, and the School of Planning, Public Policy, and Management, now in the planning stages
- A named endowment to sustain the Center for Environmental Futures
- Funding for a digital project on Oregon's public lands
- Program funding for visual and theater arts
- Program funding for CEF symposia
- A named endowment for lectures
- Dissertation fellowships for graduate students in the environmental humanities
- Research funding for graduate students in the environmental humanities
- Scholarships for underrepresented undergraduates in the environmental humanities
- Funding for a new Sustainable Futures for Oregon's Essential Workers initiative

As we prepared to go to press with this report, the global COVID-19 pandemic swept across Oregon and the nation. We had planned an array of public programs for spring and summer 2020, including

- Official opening of the Center for Environmental Futures offices
- Environmental Justice Summit (co-sponsored and co-organized with Beyond Toxics)
- Emerald Earth Film Festival focusing on toxins and environmental justice
- Performance art by Sarah Kanouse and her “National Toxic Land/Labor Conservation Service”
- Guest lectures by Rob Nixon and Anne McClintock
- Lummi Totem Pole Journey
- Understories Writers’ Workshop in the Environmental Humanities

We hope to bring all of these programs to you between August and June 2021, and we are planning several new initiatives, including a symposium on the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands and an initiative for Sustainable Futures for Oregon’s Essential Workers.

In Fall 2020, keep an eye out for:

- Environmental Justice Pathways Webinar, co-organized by Beyond Toxics
- Online Interdisciplinary 101 presentations
- A virtual Understories Writers’ Workshop (Aug.-Sept. 2020) (applications closed)
- Sustaining Essential Work Symposium (Oct. 22-23 2020)
- Online guest lectures by Rob Nixon and Anne McClintock (Dec. 2020)

For additional information and announcements of upcoming events, visit our website at <https://cef.uoregon.edu/>



**Center for
Environmental
Futures**
environment. justice. culture.



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON