

Community & Natural Resources Institute

Spring 2024 Newsletter



College of Humanities & Social Sciences
Community & Natural Resources Institute
UtahStateUniversity.

Enjoy the Summer Break!

Wow - what a whirlwind academic year! Looking back, it is pretty impressive what we have done in the past year. A few highlights include: creating a Steering Committee with faculty and graduate student representatives from multiple colleges and departments, holding or collaborating on 11 interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary campus events including our regular lunch & learns and our inaugural Growth & Balance panel, supporting 12 graduate students in presenting their work at academic conferences, and more. I hope you all have some time for both relaxation and adventure this summer and I look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

Jessica Schad
CANRI Director



College of Humanities & Social Sciences
Community & Natural Resources Institute
UtahStateUniversity®

The Community and Natural Resources Institute (CANRI) is committed to interdisciplinary research and community engagement centered on natural resource issues and environmental problems in the Intermountain West and beyond. CANRI is housed in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHaSS) and brings together faculty and students from across campus in the social sciences, humanities, and sciences to foster meaningful dialogue, cultivate academic and community collaborations, and share data and resources to affect social-environmental change.

Spring 2024 CANRI Steering Committee



Dr. Jessica Schad
Sociology
Director



Dr. Gustavo Ovando-Montejo
Environment & Society



Dr. Courtney Flint
Environment & Society
Associate Director



Dr. Stacia Ryder
Sociology



Dr. Betsy Brunner
Communication Studies
Fellow



Dr. Amber Caron
English



Dr. Chris Conte
History



Zubair Barkat
Sociology
PhD Student



Dr. Jacob Freeman
Anthropology



Bailey Holdaway
Environment & Society
MS Student

CANRI Graduate Student Research Travel Awardees



Will Munger
Environment & Society
"Reciprocal Watershed Agreements:
A Relational Approach to Care-Based
Stewardship?"



Bailey Hughlett
Communication Studies
"Predicting Utahns' Protective
Behaviors Related to Air Pollution
Through an Examination of Risk
Perception and Self-Efficacy "



Edem Avemegah
Sociology
"Farmers' Adoption of Nutrient
Management Plans in the
Chesapeake Bay Watershed"



Emma Epperson
Environment & Society
"Community Wellbeing and Outdoor
Recreation in the Upper Yakima River
Basin: Perspectives on Social and
Environmental Change"



Alex Theophilus
Sociology
"Community-Level Food Sovereignty and
Wellbeing in the Upper Yakima River
Basin: Framing Lived Experiences within
Multiscalar Food Systems Discourse "



Wesley Mathis
English
"Trust in Public Trust Lands:
Analyzing Stakeholder Perceptions
of the Bear Lake Comprehensive
Management Plan and its Kairoi"



Nowrin Fatema
Sociology
"Environmental justice in Refugee
communities: A comprehensive
study in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh"



Bosede Adejugbe
Sociology
"Air Pollution Associated with
Perception of Increased Health
Risks for People Living with
Disabilities in Utah"



**Mufti Nadimul Quamar
Ahmed**
Sociology
"Factors Affecting Fertility Intention
Among Utahns. Do Environmental
Issues Matter?"



Zubair Barkat
Sociology
"Voices from the Rangeland:
Exploring Utah Ranchers'
Perspectives on Smart Foodscapes"



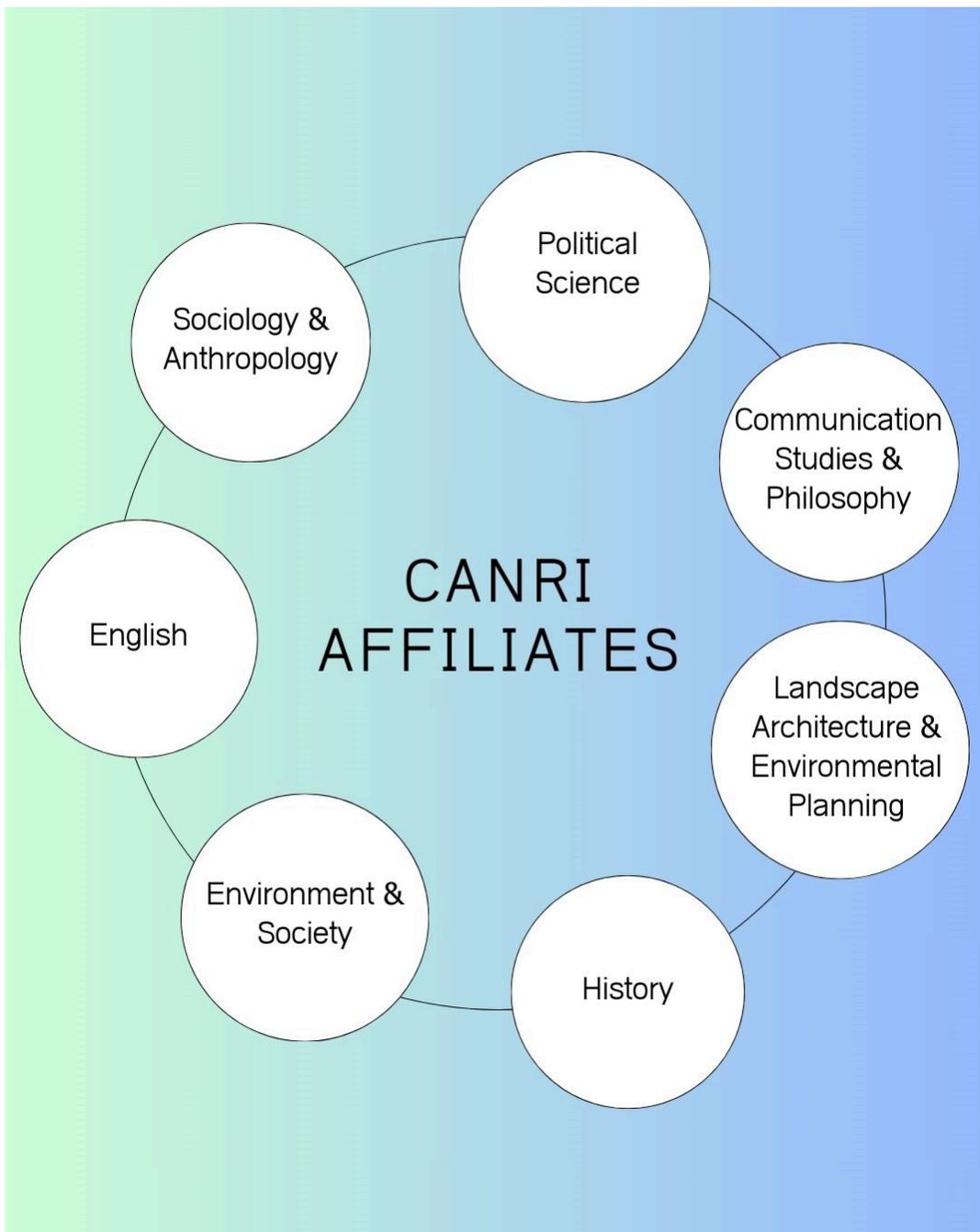
Beth Bennett
Sociology
"Concentrated Land Ownership,
Inequality, and Community Change
in Southwest Montana"



Bailey Holdaway
Environment & Society
"Risk Perceptions and Adaptations
of Local Water Management
Organizations in the Great Salt
Lake Basin, Utah, USA"

CANRI Affiliates

Current CANRI affiliates come from three colleges and seven departments!



Summer Event of Interest

Quaking Aspen

Socially valued,
ecologically in decline

Place attachment influences support for management actions in a quaking aspen forest impacted by recreation, soil contamination, and ungulates.

Georgie Corkery

MS in Ecology

Paul Rogers

Director,
Western Aspen Alliance



Join Georgie Corkery and Basin Recreation on a guided hike and learn about her research on the Quaking Aspen forest on RTS.

 RTS Trailhead

Thursday, May 16 | 5:30pm-7pm

Saturday, May 18 | 10am-11:30am



WESTERN
ASPEN
ALLIANCE



BASIN
RECREATION

Recent Publications

Below are a few recent publications shared by CANRI-affiliated graduate students and faculty that may be of interest to others:

Ahmed, M., Givens, J. & Arredondo, A. The links between climate change and migration: a review of South Asian experiences. *SN Soc Sci* 4, 64 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43545-024-00864-2>

Avemegah, E., E. Bennett, J. D. Ulrich-Schad, T. Wang, W. M. Eaton, H. L. Sieverding, D. C. Clay, and S. Westoff. 2024. "Understanding South Dakota Farmers' Adoption of Diversified Crop Rotation: An Examination of the Role of Sense of Place and Sense of Responsibility." *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2024.2346794>

Flint CG, Henderson LA, Vorenberg Hensley M. (2024) Fostering interactional resilience in social-ecological riverine landscapes: A case study from the Santa Fe River Watershed in New Mexico, U.S. In Thoms M and Fuller I. (eds). *Resilience and Riverine Landscapes*. Elsevier, Amsterdam. Pp. 341-362. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-91716-2.00007-8>

Flint CG, Holdaway BM. (2023) River and watershed organizations in the U.S. Intermountain West: Key actors in social-ecological resilience. *Socio-Ecological Practice Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42532-023-00172-8>

Freeman, J., Robinson, E., Bird, D., Hard, R. J., Mauldin, R. P., & Anderies, J. M. (2024). The long-term expansion and recession of human populations. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 121(12), e2312207121. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2312207121>

Haq, S.M.A., Orno, A.T., Lalin, S. A.A., and Ahmed, M.N.Q. (2024). Extreme Weather Events and Parental Roles: A Review of Literature. *Weather, Climate, and Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1175/WCAS-D-23-0060.1>

Howe, A. A., Blomdahl, E. M., Smith-Eskridge, E., Pinto, D. R., Brunson, M. W., Howe, P. D., Huntley, N. J., & Klain, S. C. (2024). Worldviews more than experience predict Californians' support for wildfire risk mitigation policies. *Environmental Research Letters*, 19(5), 054025.

Kusbach, A., Šebesta, J., Hruban, R., Peška, P., & Rogers, P. C. (2024). Eurasian aspen (*Populus tremula* L.): Central Europe's keystone species 'hiding in plain sight'. *Plos one*, 19(3), e0301109. See this [media](#) on the paper.

Kirsten Vinyeta & J. M. Bacon (14 May 2024): Backfire: the settler-colonial logic and legacy of Smokey Bear, *Environmental Politics*, DOI: 10.1080/09644016.2024.2353544

Wilson, S., CG Flint. (2023) Connectedness and wellbeing: Community and nature-based connection in the context of Utah's rapid growth. *Community Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15575330.2023.2286442>

New Funding for Research!

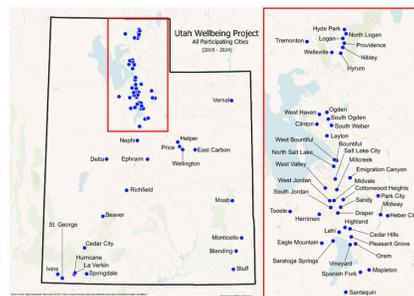
Below are some examples of funding affiliates have received for exciting research projects!

A research team that Dr. Jacob Freeman is a part of was awarded a National Science Foundation Decision and Risk Management Science Collaborative Grant in March titled: DRMS: Group cognition, stress arousal, and environment feedbacks in decision making and adaptation under uncertainty.



Short abstract: To solve complex problems, such as the sustainable use of ground water, diverse people must cooperate to share resources in uncertain environments. This project proposes and tests a model of the interdependence between stress, cognition, changes in the abundance of resources, and group decision-making. The model contributes to the science of group decision-making by investigating how stress (biology) and resources (the environment) impact how groups make decisions. The model seeks to explain why some groups of diverse people coalesce and effectively manage shared resources in uncertain environments, while others fail. The results of the project inform decision-makers faced with complex challenges related to climate variability, public health, and defense by building tools for diverse teams to cultivate systems thinking, manage shared resources, and improve cooperation over time. The project also broadens participation in online education and systems thinking skills.

CANRI affiliates received two \$15,000 impact grants from the Institute for Land, Water, & Air, 1) Courtney Flint for her proposal titled "Environmental Dimensions of Wellbeing and Policy in Utah Communities", and 2) Jessica Schad for her proposal titled "2024 Utah People & Environment Poll."



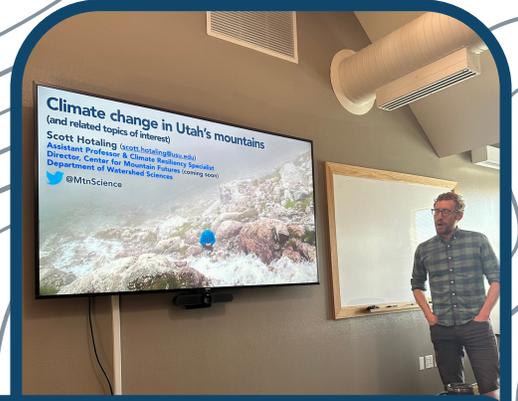
Spring 2024 Events



Dr. Betsy Brunner moderated our first Growth & Balance Panel on Air Quality & Health in March which included a transdisciplinary panel of Melanie Hall (HEAL Utah), Dr. Sydney O'Shay (Communication Studies), Dr. Ravi Gupta (Religious Studies), Dr. Patrick Belmont (Watershed Sciences), and Dr. Randy Martin (Environmental Engineering).



In April, Ataya Cesspooch, a PhD student from Berkeley, shared some of her dissertation research on "Making Power: Indigenous Sovereignty, Oil and Gas Development, and Environmental Justice on the Northern Ute Reservation."



Dr. Scott Hotaling of USU's Watershed Sciences & Extension gave a presentation on "Climate Change in Utah's Mountains" for CANRI in April.



In February, CANRI helped put on the Dialogues on Economic Growth & Sustainability symposium which focused on exploring tensions and opportunities in how we create and protect wellbeing for people and the planet.

CANRI Highlights

Here are a few highlights of recent accomplishments - academic and community-based - involving CANRI faculty and students:



One of the stories from Dr. Amber Caron's short story collection, *Call up the Waters*, won an O'Henry Prize and will be included in the *The Best Short Stories 2024 Winners*. A story from USU on the award is linked [here](#).



Dr. Courtney Flint received the Community-Engaged Faculty Presidential Award for her outstanding leadership with the Utah Wellbeing Project. On a shoestring budget, Dr. Flint has worked with over 20 students and 62 Utah cities and towns to survey residents about their wellbeing to inform local planning and statewide initiatives. Upon receiving the award, Dr. Flint said: "Giving voice to the celebrations and concerns of those in communities around the state is part of our obligation as the land-grant university. The Utah Wellbeing Project wouldn't be possible without city partnerships and the hard work of student researchers."



CANRI helped to make graduation more sustainable and affordable by setting up a robe donate and reuse program for graduating Aggies! Check out the story [here](#).



CANRI affiliates (and friends) were well-represented in the 2024 Sustainability Awards!

Sustainability Educator of the Year, Dr. Kirsten Vinyeta: Dr. Vinyeta is a professor in the Sociology department who developed a courses such as the Sociology of Climate Change and Multispecies Justice & Indigenous Knowledges that were needed at USU and have been of great interest to students!

Sustainability Advocate of the Year, Sarah Woodbury: During the months leading up to and encompassing the 2024 legislative session, Sarah dedicated countless hours to advocate for the rights and protection of Great Salt Lake and upstream tributaries, such as the Bear River.

Sustainability Innovator of the Year, the Climate Adaptation Internship Program: The Climate Adaptation Internship Program is a new paid, semester-long, cohort-style framework, ~10 interns per cohort are trained in how to research climate adaptation topics and communicate their findings and recommendations.

Sustainability Student Group of the Year, the Cache County Decarbonization Group: New faculty member Dr. Stacia Ryder and the student leaders teamed up to develop a survey on residents' views of various decarbonization strategies that will be essential in their efforts going forward to shift views and policies.



Creative Writing major Gregory Dille has been awarded a CHaSS summer mentorship grant to examine how fiction responds to controversial land use policies associated with natural resource removal. Here's a [link](#) to that news.



In April, MA Sociology student Alex Theophyllus successfully defended his thesis titled: "Linking Community-Level Food Sovereignty to Subjective Wellbeing: Framing Perspectives on Food Systems in the Upper Yakima River Basin." Alex also received the Department of Sociology & Anthropology Masters Student Researcher of the Year. Finally, Alex will be continuing at USU to work on his PhD. Congrats Alex!



Clarissa Casper, a graduating senior, published an article about the Great Salt Lake. She started this article in an undergraduate class with Ashley Wells (CANRI faculty affiliate). Clarissa also just accepted an offer to join the English graduate program. Here's an [article](#) about her publication.



Check out [this](#) CHaSS Doctoral Student Spotlight on Mufti Nadimul Quamar Ahmed--a second year PhD student pursuing a doctorate in sociology at USU. Ahmed is working on projects that examine the correlation between the environment and vulnerabilities in the face of natural disasters and hopes that this kind of research will help lawmakers and citizens determine what to prioritize for the wellbeing of Utahns. He says UPEP is just the beginning of his journey to better understand how fertility and the environment broadly matter to Utahns and beyond.



Recent Sociology PhD Student Dr. Kristen Koci gave a talk on some of her dissertation work at an event put on by USU Extension and the Southeast Utah Health Department focused on well-being, mental health, and coal mining in Carbon County and Price, Utah. See a story on the event [here](#).



There were also a number of successful PhD and MA/MS defenses in QCNR!
Dr. (!!!) Will Munger (ENVS) - Dissertation Title: "Working Together for Working Lands: Knowledge Braiding and Adaptive Capacity at the Confluence of Rangelands, Climate Adaptation, and Watershed Stewardship"

Georgie Corkery (Ecology) - Thesis Title: "Socially valued, ecologically in decline: Place attachment influences support for management actions in a quaking aspen forest impacted by recreation, soil, chemistry, and ungulates"

Sarah Woodbury (ENVS) - Thesis Title: "The desert will blossom: LDS relational values and multispecies justice in the Intermountain West"



Sydney Fisk, the first Climate Conservation Corps intern in the state of Utah, received USU's Ivory Prize for Community Engagement! Sydney works with Dr. Roslynn Brain McCann and the USU Extension Permaculture Initiative and will be working with Dr. Jessica Schad on the UPEP this summer and fall. Check out the story [here](#) on Sydney's award!

**USU STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
SPRING 2024**

CANRI SESSION

LANE ARTHUR

"Evaluating the Impact of Mountain Bike Recreation on Mule Deer and Habitat Quality in Wildlife Management Areas located in Utah" Advised by Dr. Anna Miller.

MADISON FJELDSTED THOMPSON

"Assessing the influence of 'Small Town Feel' on wellbeing in Utah" Advised by Dr. Courtney Flint.

ELIZABETH BENNETT

"Concentrated Land Ownership, Inequality, and Community Change in Southwest Montana" Advised by Dr. Jessica Schad.

EDEM AVEMEGAH

"Farmers' Adoption of Nutrient Management Plans in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed" Advised by Dr. Jessica Schad.

ALEX THEOPHILUS

"Community-Level Food Sovereignty and Wellbeing in the Upper Yakima River Basin: Framing Lived Experiences within Multiscalar Food Systems Discourse" Advised by Dr. Jessica Schad & Dr. Courtney Flint.

ZUBAIR BARKAT

"Reconstructing Perspectives: North American Rangeland Social Science Redefined through the Lens of 'RANCHER-SECTIONALITY.'" Advised by Dr. Jessica Schad.



College of Humanities & Social Sciences
Community & Natural Resources Institute
UtahStateUniversity.

**JOIN
US!**

Tuesday, 12:30-1:20
Library Room 101

Save the Date! CANRI Fall 2024 Social



College of Humanities & Social Sciences
Community & Natural Resources Institute
UtahStateUniversity.



SAVE THE DATE

FALL SOCIAL

Thursday, August 29th
5:30–7:30, Stokes Nature Center
Family invited
Dinner and drinks provided





We thank everyone for continued involvement and support of CANRI efforts!



CANRI Director - Dr. Jessica Ulrich-Schad
USU Department of Sociology & Anthropology
0730 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322
jessica.schad@usu.edu