

Community & Natural Resources Institute

Spring 2025 Newsletter



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

New CANRI Leadership!

Happy July CANRI Affiliates & Friends!

I hope everyone is getting some relaxing in this summer after the whirlwind of the academic year. I have three goals for this newsletter. First, share some of the exciting things we did during the spring semester. Second, provide a sneak peak on some exciting plans for the fall. And last, pass the CANRI baton to Drs. Stacia Ryder (Sociology) and Sydney O'Shay (Communication Studies) as they will be co-directing CANRI as I am on sabbatical over the next academic year. These two will bring exciting expertise and experience to CANRI leadership and I am thrilled to have them in this position.



Sydney O'Shay
CANRI Co-Director



Stacia Ryder
CANRI Co-Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Schad'.

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.

CANRI Steering Committee 24-25

We appreciate the insights & help from these faculty & students.



Bailey Hughlett
Communication Studies
MS Student



Dr. Gustavo Ovando-Montejo
Environment & Society



Dr. Sydney O'Shay
Communication Studies
Fellow



Dr. Stacia Ryder
Sociology



Dr. Betsy Brunner
Communication Studies
Community Liasion



Dr. Amber Caron
English



Dr. Chris Conte
History



Alex Theophilus
Sociology
PhD Student



Dr. Jacob Freeman
Anthropology



Bailey Holdaway
Environment & Society
MS Student

Thank you to our undergraduate interns who graduated!!



Sydney Fisk
Extension & UPEP Intern



Sydney sharing her findings from the Utah People & Environment Poll (UPEP) at the state capitol!!



Faith Walker
CANRI Communications



Sydney sharing her expertise at the Lavender Tour she and Faith organized.

Spring 2025 Events



UtahStateUniversity | Community and Natural Resources Institute
College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Presents

THE CLIMATE BABY DILEMMA

Film Screening & Panel Discussion

A DOCUMENTARY ON THE PERSONAL CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

THE CLIMATE BABY DILEMMA is a bracing and intimate exploration into one of the most surprising impacts climate change is having - how, and if, we parent. It delves beyond the specific question of parenthood, exploring this manifestation of the deep climate anxiety affecting people today.

THURSDAY, January 16th, 2025
6PM - 8PM

Merrill-Cazier Library Rm 101
Event is free & light refreshments will be served

Join us for a film screening and panel discussion moderated by Dr. Jessica Schad in conversation with:

Muskan Walla Senior honors student at the University of Utah and founder of Utah Youth Environmental Solutions (UYES)	Darren Parry Indigenous storyteller, instructor at Utah State University, and former Chairman of the Shoshone Nation	Rae Oquirrh Dial Executive Director of Unthinkable, a nonprofit tackling the mental health crisis within the climate crisis
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CANRI | USU Yun Kim Population Research Laboratory | Unthinkable




Using Artificial Intelligence in Social Science Research

WORKSHOP

Learn from Sociology PhD Student Zubair Barkat about some options for incorporating AI into your social science research. Bring a laptop to practice applying what you learn!

Friday, February 7
12:30-2:00
Old Main 224A (SOC Conference Room)
Lunch Provided
Please RSVP

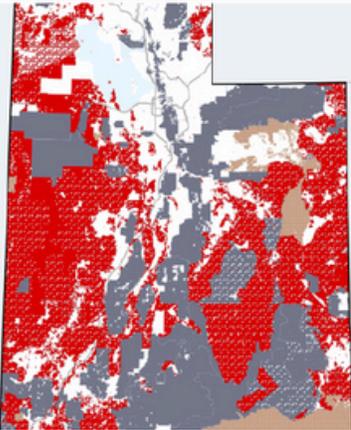
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UtahStateUniversity.




Spring 2025 Events, Continued

GROWTH & BALANCE: PUBLIC LANDS

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



FRIDAY, FEB. 21ST
11:00AM - 12:15PM

MERRILL-CAZIER
LIBRARY
RM 154
LUNCH PROVIDED

RSVP
HERE



What role do public lands play in human lives? Animal lives? Ecosystems?
And how has their role changed over time?
Join us for this interactive panel with:

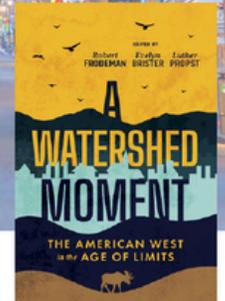
DARREN PARRY, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE SHOSHONE NATION
GREG SHEEHAN, CEO/PRESIDENT, MULE DEER FOUNDATION
DR. NICHELLE FRANK, HISTORY
DR. JORDAN SMITH, DIRECTOR, GATEWAY & NATURAL AMENITY
REGION (GNAR) INITIATIVE
& MODERATOR, DR. BETSY BRUNNER (COMM STUDIES)



FACING LIMITS IN THE AMERICAN WEST

A COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON PAST,
PRESENT, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

A new collection of essays, *A Watershed Moment*, reveals tensions between a culture of economic growth and personal freedom and the ecological, economic, and social constraints set by community values and the land itself. As Western communities come up against these limits, chapter authors highlight issues of sustainability endemic to the region and to the nation as a whole. Join us to hear from authors and discuss critical social-environmental issues in the West.



Friday, Feb. 28, 10:00-noon

USU Library Room 154

PANELISTS:



Robert
Frodeman
Environmental
Philosopher



Regina
Lopez-
Whiteskunk
Ute Mountain Ute
Tribal Member



Kekek Jason
Stark
Director, Margery
Hunter Brown
Indian Law Clinic



Luther
Propst
Teton County,
Wyoming County
Commissioner



Paul Rogers
Director of
Western Aspen
Alliance

Sponsored by: Dept. Environment & Society, Community & Natural Resources Inst., Western Aspen Alliance, Native American Cultural Center, Quinney College of Natural Resources, and Center for Intersectional Gender Studies & Research

RSVP here or by
scanning QR code:
<https://bit.ly/waterusu>



Spring 2025 Events, Continued



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

MARCH LUNCH & LEARN FEATURING GRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKERS

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!



March 3,
2025



OM 338

(Dean's Large Conference Room)



12:00 PM

Come hear what some of our awesome CANRI-affiliated grads are up to!
Topics include: Gender studies, population health, transportation, environmental planning, and water efficient landscaping.



Benjamin Chandler
Masters
Landscape Architecture &
Environmental Planning



Mary Claire Jennings
Masters
Landscape Architecture &
Environmental Planning



Jesse Shircliff
PhD
Sociology



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

APRIL LUNCH & LEARN FEATURING GRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKERS

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!



April 10,
2025



OM 338

(Dean's Large Conference Room)



12:00 PM

Come hear what some of our awesome CANRI-affiliated grads are up to!
Topics include: Community wellbeing, outdoor recreation, biodiversity conservation, religion, urban ecology, poetry, multi-modal methods, and queer studies!



Leanna DeJong
PhD
Environment & Society



Emma Epperson
Masters
Environment & Society



Basil Payne
Masters
English



Everyone is invited, just please RSVP!
RSVP using Link or QR Code
<https://forms.gle/8sdCCRbGApLzRbXa7>

Please contact Alex (A.Theophilus@usu.edu)
if you want to attend by Zoom

Also, reach out to Alex with any questions!



Everyone is invited, just please RSVP!
RSVP using Link or QR Code
<https://forms.gle/sVhtxhUyEJvYNJZr8>

Please contact Alex (A.Theophilus@usu.edu)
if you want to attend by Zoom

Also, reach out to Alex with any questions!



Spring 2025 Events, Continued


 College of Humanities & Social Sciences
 Transforming Communities Institute
 UtahStateUniversity


 Center for Intersectional Gender Studies & Research
 UtahStateUniversity.


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

Join us for Lunch & Learn with:

Dr. Michael Staley

Friday, March 28
 12-1 p.m.
 Sorenson Center for Clinical Excellence (SCCE) 209
 Zoom Option Available

Dr. Michael J. Staley is the suicide prevention research coordinator and epidemiology manager at the Utah DHHS Office of the Medical Examiner. He conducts near-real time surveillance of suicide deaths in Utah in order to inform prevention and intervention. Additionally, Staley is the principal investigator of the Utah Youth Suicide Research Project, a comprehensive study of youth suicide. He also oversees the surveillance of drug-related deaths. Staley earned his PhD in sociology from the University of New Hampshire.

RSVP HERE:
<https://bit.ly/mstaley>

1 Social Work CEU is available for this event






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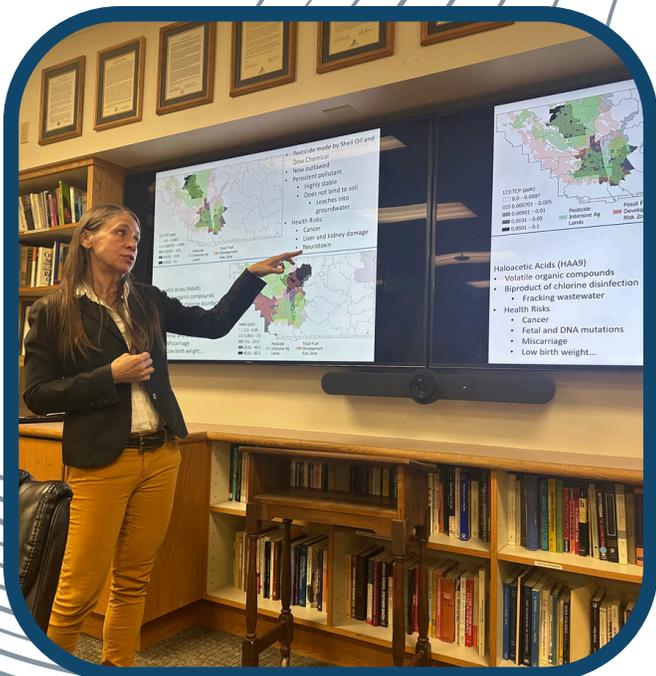
Join us for a Lunch & Learn with

Dr. Deseret Weeks

Exploring Green Crime and Rationalization
 in the Rural Industrialized
 Water-Energy-Food Nexus

Tuesday, March 18th @12:00
 Old Main 224A (SOC Conference Room)
 Lunch Served
 RSVP:
<https://bit.ly/WeeksCANRI>



Spring 2025 Events, Continued



We invite students, staff, faculty, and the community at large to join us as we blend Earth Day with the Catalan holiday of Sant Jordi to profess our love for our wondrous planet through poetry



Love Poems for the Earth

April 22, 2025, 4-6 PM
Carolynn Tanner Irish Pavilion

Poetry Readings | Live Music | Used Book Exchange | Refreshments

Questions? Contact kirsten.vinyeta@usu.edu or sarah.woodbury@usu.edu



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Find our more and
RSVP here!



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Sip n'
Shop!

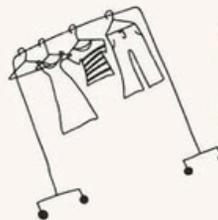
Sustainable Clothing Swap

Friday, March 28th 1-3pm

Carolynn Tanner Irish Pavilion in the
Heravi building

Bring your used child or adult clothes and pick up
some new ones! Donations not required to attend.

Any clothes left will be donated to **capsa**



Soda Bar & Snacks Provided

Shoppers are encouraged to bring a
reusable cup!

RSVP here:



Drop off clothes by 3/17 to
Communication Studies [OM204],
Sociology [OM224],
OR
bring them with you!



Recent Publications

Check out a sample of pubs shared with us by CANRI-affiliates.

Adejugbe, B.O. and Ahmed, M.N.Q. (2025). Fertility intentions in the USA: unraveling gender and age dynamics through a cross-sectional lens. *Journal of Population Research*, 42, 14, Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12546-025-09365-2>

Ahmed, M.N.Q., Givens, J.E. (2025). Farmers' Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and the Role of Environmental Awareness and Education: A Review in Africa. In: Mbah, M.F., Molthan-Hill, P., Molua, E.L. (eds) *Practices, Perceptions and Prospects for Climate Change Education in Africa*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-84081-4_9

Haq, S.M.A, Ahmed, M.N.Q. Jannath, F. and Ahmed, K.J. (2025). What aspects affect People's perceptions of energy use? A comparison of heterogeneity vs homogeneity based on an in-depth review. *Acta Psychologica*, 254, Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actpsy.2025.104797>

Saha B., Ahmed, M.N.Q., Ahmed, K.J., and Haq, S.M.A. (2025). What matters for environmental concerns in Bangladesh? A study on university students in Bangladesh. *Frontiers in Climate (Sec. Climate, Ecology and People)*, 7 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fclim.2025.1532308>

Corkery, G., Miller, A. B., & Rogers, P. C. (2024). Quaking Aspen in a High-Use Recreation Area: Challenges of People, Ungulates, and Sodium on Landscape Resilience. *Land*, 13(7), 1. <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/13/7/1003>

Culver, L., Frehner, B., Grego, C., Meier, D., Paradis, B., & Wetjen, K. (2025). Navigating Climate, Culture, Nature, Science, and Race: A Roundtable on Climate History in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, 24(2), 200-223. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537781424000677>

Theophilus, A., Ulrich-Schad, J., Flint, C. and Epperson, E. (2025), Amenity Migration and Community Wellbeing in Washington's Kittitas County Post-COVID-19 Pandemic. *Rural Sociology*, 90: 3-22. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ruso.12590>

Theophilus, A., Ulrich-Schad, J.D. and Flint, C.G. (2025), Community-Level Food Sovereignty and Wellbeing in the Upper Yakima River Basin: Framing Lived Experiences within Multi-Scalar Food Systems Discourse. *Sociological Inquiry*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/soin.70006>

Nesbit, K. A., Yocom, L. L., Trudgeon, A. M., Rogers, P. C., McAvoy, D. J., Lane, E., & DeRose, R. J. (2024). Stand composition and development stage affect fuel characteristics of quaking aspen forests in Utah, USA. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, 55, 1-13. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1139/cjfr-2024-0095>

CANRI Highlights

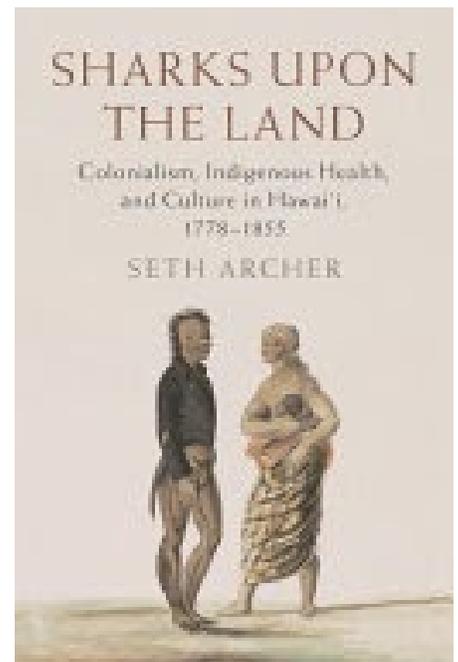
Check out some highlights of what our faculty and student affiliates have been up to!



Check out this PBS documentary featuring Paul Rogers work on pando:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwBgSbPvg7Q>

Dr. Seth Archer's "Sharks upon the Land: Colonialism, Indigenous Health, and Culture in Hawai'i, 1778-1855" (Cambridge University Press, 2018) was shortlisted for the 2024 William H. Welch Medal from the American Association for the History of Medicine.



Betsy Brunner published a chapter in the edited collection, *Ecological Feelings*, entitled "Possessiveness," which traces the roots of this complex feeling about nature to Western colonialism through case studies in the American West. Link to book:

<https://msupress.org/9781611865257/ecological-feelings/>



Nowrin Fatema, an MA student in Sociology, was widely recognized for her work:

- Master's Student Researcher of the Year (2025) – Robins Awards, Utah State University Link:
- USU Presidential Award for Community Engagement (2025) – Utah State University
- Sustainability Award (2025) – Utah State University
- Master's Student Researcher of the Year (2025) – Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice, Utah State University
- Master's Student Researcher of the Year (2025) – College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHaSS), Utah State University
- Finalist, Achievement of the Year (2025), Robins Awards – Utah State University
- J. Ratcliff Prize (2024) – Utah State University, for outstanding community-engaged scholarship
- Graduate Fellow Award (2024–2025) – Center for Intersectional Gender Studies and Research, Utah State University
- 3rd Prize – Rapid Fire Research: 4 Minutes, 4 Slides Competition, College of Science, Utah State University (2024)



Sociology student Mufti Nadimul Quamar Ahmed was also recognized for his achievements!

- Winner of the Achievement of the Year 2025 at the Robins Award Ceremony
- Best Graduate Oral Presenter (College level) at the Student Research Symposium 2025
- Received USU Sustainability Award 2025 (Community Impact Category)
- As a J. Redcliff Prize Winner 2025, gave an invited research talk at the "Lunch and Learn" Event organized by CHaSS



CANRI Student Affiliates

Successful PhD & MA/MS defenses!



Lane Arthur - MS in Environment & Society - Thesis titled: "From Rifles to Running Shoes: How Outdoor Recreation Trends are Reshaping Conservation Efforts."



Elizabeth (Beth) Bennett - PhD in Sociology - Dissertation titled: "Still 'The Last Best Place'? Amenity Migration and Concentrated Ownership in Southwest Montana."



Emma Epperson - MS in Environment & Society - Thesis titled: "Adapting to Change in Amenity-Oriented Communities: Innovative Strategies for Shifting Social and Environmental Needs."



Nowrin Fatema - MA in Sociology - Thesis titled: "Forging Resilient Futures: The Role of Community Organization in Addressing Environmental Injustices Faced by Immigrants along the Wasatch Front, Utah."



Leonard Henderson - PhD in Sociology - Dissertation titled: "Wild Water: Hydrosocial Dislocation, Dispossession, and the Symbolic Geographies of the American West."



Bailey Holdaway - MS in Environment & Society - Thesis titled: "Risk Perceptions and Water Governance: Experiences of Irrigation Companies in the Great Salt Lake Basin of Northern, Utah, United States."



Bailey Hughlett - MS in Communication Studies - Thesis titled: "Understanding how Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer Narrate Their Lived Experience: Memorable Messages of Childhood Cancer Survivors."



Kori Kurtzeborn - MS in Landscape Architecture & Environmental Planning - Thesis titled: "Sustainable Planning in Gateway Natural Amenity Region Communities."



Wesley Mathis - PhD in Technical Communication & Rhetoric - Dissertation titled: "Re-interpreting Bodies (of Water) in a Rhetorical Climate of Ableism Designing New "Normals " for Environmental Communication at Bear Lake."



Bryn Watkins - MS in Environment & Society - Thesis titled: "Once Our Land Is Gone, It's Gone": Farmer Perspectives on Growth, Embeddedness, and the Future of Food in the Great Salt Lake Basin."

Save the Date for these Fall 2025 Events!



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



SAVE THE DATE

FALL SOCIAL

Thursday, August 28th
5:30-7:30, Stokes Nature Center
Family invited
Dinner and drinks provided



Illusion of Abundance

A QUEST TO SAVE GREAT SALT LAKE



BROLLY ARTS PRESENTS
A BROLLY ARTS FILM IN ASSOCIATION WITH AMY MACDONALD,
SOFIA GORDER, TWIG MEDIA LAB AND CHRISTOPHER LEE
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY | ALEXANDER LEE

FEATURING SOPHIA CUTRUBUS, AUTHOR & NARRATOR, ILLUSION OF ABUNDANCE
CINEMATOGRAPHY | SOFIA GORDER
DANCERS | AMANDA COLEANGELO, SOPHIA CUTRUBUS,
MIKEL LAWLOR, URSULA PERRY, MELISSA YOUNKER
INDIGENOUS PARTICIPANTS AND CONTRIBUTORS | JOSHUA DIXON (DINE/NAVAJO), JESSICA WIARDA (HOPI/TEWA),
DARREN PARRY (FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE NORTHWEST BAND OF THE SHOSHONE NATION), VIRGIL JOHNSON
(MEMBER OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBE OF THE GOSNUTE NATION), PHIL MANNING (NORTHERN UTE, UNTAH BAND),
KYRIE UNGATAVINEKENT DUNCAN (NORTHERN UTE, UNCOMPAGRE BAND), EVELYN NELSON (DINE/NAVAJO),
FRANCES SHEPPARD (DINE/NAVAJO), CYNTHIA WILSON (DINE/NAVAJO)
DESIGN | RAE CREATIVE

TWIG



Saturday, October 4th

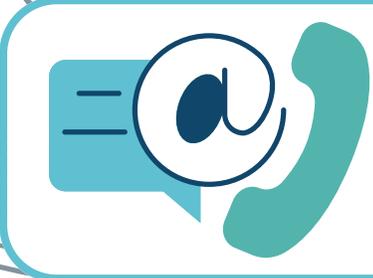
Time TBD

Wanless Performance Hall @ USU

Join us for a showing of the film - Illusion of Abundance - which exposes a climate and culture in crisis due to the declining Great Salt Lake. This will be accompanied by a sculptural dance piece, indigenous fashion show, a performative land acknowledgement, and a panel.



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



CANRI Director - Dr. Jessica Ulrich-Schad
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Logan, UT 84322
jessica.schad@usu.edu