

Community & Natural Resources Institute

Fall 2025 Newsletter



College of Arts & Sciences
Community & Natural Resources Institute
UtahStateUniversity.

Happy Holidays

CANRI Affiliates & Friends!

As the fall semester winds down, we want to take the opportunity to send our warmest holiday wishes to our CANRI friends, affiliates and families! After departmental mergers and under new leadership, CANRI has had a busy semester filled with great events. Our goals were to engage faculty, grad and undergraduate students in cross-disciplinary conversations. As many of you know, with CANRI Director Dr. Schad being on sabbatical it left some very big shoes for us to fill! We are so grateful for all of the hard work that you all have put in to help us make this semester a successful one for CANRI. We especially want to thank the steering committee and students who have assisted us with event planning and activities. Looking forward to Spring 2026, we will continue hosting some of our favorite events—lunch and learns, our growth and balance panel series, and the 2nd annual Love Poems for the Earth event. We will also be co-sponsoring several events and remain open to co-sponsoring opportunities, so please reach out! As CANRI continues to grow, please watch out for our call for expressions of interest in steering committee and affiliate positions, an updated logo, and the continued expansion of the cross-institutional collaboration, the Great Salt Lake Social Science Network (GSL-SSN).

We look forward to gathering again in the (hopefully more snowy) new year!

Sydney O'Shay
CANRI Co-Director

Stacia Ryder
CANRI Co-Director



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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 25-26

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



Dr. Sydney O'Shay
Interim Co-Director
Communication Studies



Dr. Stacia Ryder
Interim Co-Director
Sociology



Bailey Holdaway
Environment & Society
MS Student



Dr. Gustavo Ovando-Montejo
Environment & Society



Dr. Betsy Brunner
Communication Studies
Community Liasion



Dr. Amber Caron
English



Ashley Young
Sociology
MS Student



Alex Theophilus
Sociology
PhD Student



Dr. Jacob Freeman
Anthropology



Dax Gove
English
MS Student

August 2025 Events



College of Humanities & Social Sciences
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SAVE THE DATE

FALL SOCIAL



Thursday, August 28th
5:30–7:30, Stokes Nature Center
Family invited
Dinner and drinks provided
Information about CANRI's plans for the upcoming academic year and student lightning talks will precede an evening social.

Scan the QR code and fill out our form to RSVP.



Fall Social and Lightning Talks

The semester opened at Stokes Nature Center, where students from across 3 departments presented their research, followed by a social with CANRI community members



CANRI FALL OPENING SOCIAL
@ STOKES NATURE CENTER

FRIDAY, AUG 28, 2025
5:30 – 7:30 PM

STUDENT LIGHTNING TALKS

CANRI-affiliated students, please join us at the 2025 CANRI Fall Social where you can practice your elevator speech, share an exciting aspect of your work, or tell us about your summer research activities in a 2–3 minute informal, lightning talk.

This is a great opportunity for students to share their research with peers and connect with faculty you may not know.

Both graduate and undergraduate students are encouraged to apply. We are looking for 5–6 students to present.

If you are interested, please scan the QR code to apply! The application form will close August 15th, 2025 at 5:00 pm MT.

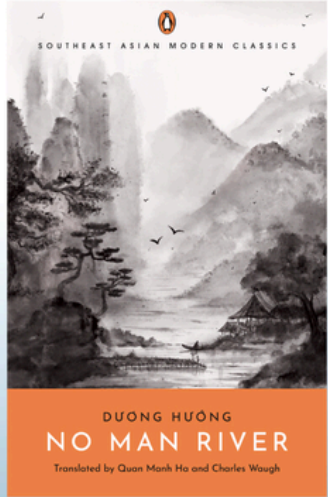
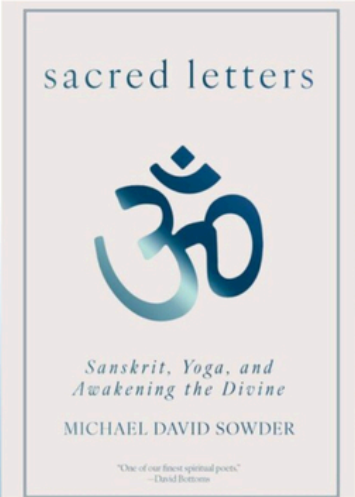
Feel free to contact baileyholdaway@usu.edu, daxgove@usu.edu, or a.theophilus@usu.edu with questions.

APPLY HERE!



September 2025 Events

CANRI affiliate Charles Waugh read from his new translation of “No Man River,” a Vietnamese classic about a village before, during, and after the American War depicting the relationships between rural Vietnamese culture and the environment alongside themes of intergenerational conflict



Faculty Reading Series

with Michael Sowder and Charles Waugh



Thursday
September 18
1:30-2:45



Merrill-Cazier
Library, 101



UtahState
University

Affiliated Sponsors
Department of English



S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney
College of Agriculture & Natural Resources
UtahStateUniversity.

Natural Resources Seminar Series: Fall 2025

Wednesday, Sept 3rd - 4:00 pm - NR 105



Tracking Utahns' Views on Key Environmental Issues Using the Utah People and Environment Poll (UPEP)

Jessica Schad

USU School of Social Sciences
Director of Community and Natural Resources Institute

CANRI director Jessica Schad presented research from her work on the Utah People and Environment Poll, which surveys perceptions and attitudes about environmental issues among adult Utahns

October 2025 Events



ILLUSION OF ABUNDANCE

OCT. 4TH @ 6:00 PM
USU's Russell/Wanlass Performance Hall
Doors open at 5:30 pm

Join us for a film screening and panel discussion that immerses you in the possibility of positive change to include underrepresented voices in decision-making around natural resources, land use, and climate.

The event will feature performances, a film screening, and an interdisciplinary discussion panel. Light refreshments will be served.	Stop by NEHMA before the event to explore Indigenous art and learn about the Intermountain Indian School's history in Brigham City.
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Thank you to our event sponsors!
USU Museum of Anthropology | Mountain West Center for Regional Studies | Caine School of the Arts | Heravi Peace Institute | School of Social Sciences | Department of Environment & Society | USU College of Arts and Sciences | USU Center for Intersectional Gender Studies & Research

In October we held a screening and panel discussion of “Illusion of Abundance,” an award-winning multidisciplinary film project focusing on the ecological crisis facing the Great Salt Lake and the necessity for multicultural, collaborative and sustainable solutions. The panel featured CANRI community member Dr. Kirsten Vinyeta, Senator Nate Blouin, professor and Northwest Band of Shoshone Tribal Elder Darren Parry, GSL advocate and USU extension specialist Chandler Rosenberg, and professional dancer Sophia Cutrubus.

University of Utah
Geography PhD
student Austin Clark
presented on using
geodata to study
environmental
inequalities



UNEQUAL IMPACTS OF HEAT
USING GEODATA TO STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL INEQUALITIES

Austin Clark, Geography PhD student
University of Utah
with Bryce Hannibal, WFRDC administrator

OCT 23 1PM
LUNCH PROVIDED!

- TIME: OCTOBER 23, 1-2:30PM
- LOCATION: OLD MAIN 318

RSVP
VIA QR CODE OR HERE

Questions? Email: stacia.ryder@usu.edu

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Psychology
Smith-Elliott Jones College of Education and Human Services
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College of Medicine & Dentistry
College of Nursing & Health Sciences
College of Public Health & Community Medicine
College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

October 2025

Continued

Humanizing Science

BRIDGING RESEARCH & ART THROUGH
CRITICAL POETIC INQUIRY (CPI)

IN THIS HANDS-ON WORKSHOP YOU'LL:

- Turn your research into poetry through storytelling, emotion, & reflection
- Get inspired by a live poetry reading from **Abi Pollokoff**'s new book: **Night Myths--Before the Body**
- Share your writing @ open mic (optional)



Participants receive a **FREE** copy of Night Myths

Open to faculty, undergrad & grad students in **any major!**
No poetry experience needed—just bring a research idea, paper, or topic you care about

Merrill-Cazier Library | Room 101
Oct. 23 | 3:30 – 5:30 pm
(FREE) dinner provided

RSVP here or at:
tinyurl.com/NightMyths



Abi Pollokoff
Visiting Eco-poet



Dr. C.R. Grimmer
Assistant Professor
Workshop facilitator

Contact Sydney.oshay@usu.edu with questions

Sponsored by:



College of Arts & Sciences
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College of Arts & Sciences
Center for Intersectional Gender Studies & Research
Utah State University



Department of Communication & Media

School of Social Sciences

The Humanizing Science event gave undergraduates, grad students, and faculty the chance to engage in a workshop on merging research and art, specifically using the methods of Critical Poetic Inquiry. The event was led by professor of poetry Dr. C.R. Grimmer and featured a reading from ecopoet Abi Pollokoff, a hands-on workshop, and an open mic where students shared their poems

November 2025 Events

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NOVEMBER LUNCH & LEARN

FEATURING GRADUATE
STUDENT SPEAKERS

----- LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED! -----

 November 14, 2025	 Old Main 338 Dean's Conference Room	 12:00 PM
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Come hear what some of our awesome CANRI-affiliated grads are up to!
Topics include: Rhetoric, Ecology, Pedagogy, Human-Bear Interactions, Wildlife Conflict, Multispecies Justice, Sacred Ecology, Mormon Studies, Great Salt Lake, and more!


Dax Gove
Masters
English


Taylor Peltier
PhD
Environment & Society


Sarah Woodbury
PhD
Sociology

 **Everyone is invited, just please RSVP!**
RSVP using Link or QR Code
<https://forms.gle/UuHg1vcTJRW4yHEt5>

Please contact Alex (A.Theophilus@usu.edu) if you want to attend by Zoom
Also, reach out to Alex with any questions!

Our Fall grad student Lunch N' Learn featured three students from across departments. Sociology PhD student Sarah Woodbury presented on attitudes of multispecies justice and ecological wellbeing in the LDS community; English Master's student Dax Gove presented his research on place-based rhetorical analysis; and Environment and Society PhD student Taylor Peltier presented her work on human-bear interactions and wildlife conflict.

Professor of Natural Resources Sociology Catrin Edgeley presented her work on community-led decision making in wildfire planning and recovery at a November Lunch N' Learn

Lunch & Learn Aligning Community Contexts With Wildfire Adaptation Strategies Before and After Fire: Case Studies From Across the West

Starts At 12:00 PM

OldMain Room 338
November 17th, 2025

Join us for a presentation that explores the importance of incorporating community-led decisions into pre-wildfire planning and post-wildfire recovery processes!

Lunch Will Be Provided



Catrin Edgeley
Natural Resource Sociology
Please RSVP By Code or Link:



<https://forms.gle/MPvNrr8vs9LRf96X7>

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November 2025 Events, Continued



WUDA OGWA PLANTING DAYS

**NOVEMBER 7TH & 8TH, 2025
10AM-2PM**

Volunteer with the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation and partners to plant willows, cottonwoods and other native plants at the **Wuda Ogwa restoration site!**
(near Preston, ID – 2 hour drive from Salt Lake area)



LEARN MORE & SIGN UP



PLANT ILLUSTRATIONS BY RIOS PACHECO

CANRI community members joined over 400 volunteers to take part in the Wuda Ogwa planting days put on by the Northwestern Band of Shoshone. Over 11,000 trees were planted and the event was so successful that the NWB has decided to host a new Spring planting event!

This semester's Growth and Balance panel was on watershed degradation, restoration, and community collaboration.

GROWTH & BALANCE: WATERSHED RESTORATION

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**THURSDAY,
NOV. 20TH
3:30PM - 5:00PM**

**MERRIL-CAZIER
LIBRARY
RM 154
SNACKS SERVED**

RSVP HERE → 

What factors have contributed to watershed degradation? How are scientists and Indigenous groups working to restore them? Come to learn about the intersection of beavers, fish, people, and more.

SCOTT SHAHVERDIAN, LEAD DESIGN GEOMORPHOLOGIST
DR. LAWRENCE CULVER, HISTORY @ USU
TYLER COLEMAN, TROUT UNLIMITED
SARAH KOENIGSBERG, RESTORING RIVERSCAPES PROJECT
AIDAN KLOPFENSTEIN, BIO-WEST
& MODERATOR, DR. BETSY BRUNNER (COMM STUDIES @ USU)

December 2025 Events



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NAVIGATING THE ACADEMIC JOB MARKET



December 3,
2025



Zoom



3:00 PM

Come hear tips and tricks for the job market from alumni of CANRI-affiliated programs! This event will be particularly helpful for all graduate students!



Elizabeth Bennett
Assistant Professor of
Sociology, Idaho State
University



Alyssa Quinn
Assistant Professor of
English, Kenyon College



Jesse Shircliff
Post-Doctoral Fellow of
Population Health,
University of Kansas
Medical Center



Leonard Henderson
Lecturer, Department of
Sociology, Southern
Methodist University



Edem Avemegah
Post-Doctoral Fellow of Crop
and Soil Sciences, Washington
State University



Please RSVP to be sent the Zoom link.
Zoom information will be sent on 12/3.
<https://forms.gle/AkKAqMtt9a73qJax8>

Please contact Alex Theophilus
(a.theophilus@usu.edu) with
any questions!

Alumni of CANRI affiliated programs gave a panel discussion on navigating the academic job market. Panelists included graduates from Sociology, English, and Soil Sciences



CANRI end-of-semester social!



CANRI END-OF-SEMESTER SOCIAL

Let's get together to share a meal
and celebrate the end of the
semester!

Family & friends welcome!

Tues., Dec. 9 | 5:30 pm
The Boarding House
394 W. Center Street | Logan

RSVP here or
via QR code:
tinyurl.com/CANRI25



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Recent Publications

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

Ahmad, S.; Somer, M.; Lloyd, L.; Ahmed, M.N.Q. (2025). Beyond the Inhaler: Parental Perceptions of Air Quality and Asthma Management Through a Socio-Ecological Framework, *Journal of Asthma*, 1-26, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02770903.2025.2592241>.

Ahmed, Mufti Nadimul Quamar (2025). "Teaching Environmental Justice CrossNationally." First Publics. Available <https://thesocietypages.org/firstpublics/2025/08/06/teaching-environmental-justice-cross-nationally/>.

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.

Ahmed, Mufti Nadimul Quamar; Ulrich-Schad, Jessica; Givens, Jennifer E.; Vinyeta, Kirsten; and Ryder, Stacia. (2025). "The Role of Environmental and Climate Issues in Utahns' Migration Decisions Along the Rural-Urban Continuum". Utah People and Environment Poll (UPEP).

Bacon, J.m., Vinyeta, K., Ward, G. and Widmann, E., 2025. Mapping the Web of Solidarity: A Social Network Analysis of Shifting Tribal Engagement Among the Big 10 Environmental Organizations in the United States. *Environmental Sociology*, pp. 1-17. [https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/citedby/10.1080/23251042.2025.2529613?](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/citedby/10.1080/23251042.2025.2529613?scroll=top&needAccess=true)
[scroll=top&needAccess=true](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/citedby/10.1080/23251042.2025.2529613?scroll=top&needAccess=true).

Culver, Lawrence. "Disaster Made Manifest: The Federal Role in U.S. National Disasters." *National Disasters in the United States: Making Sense of Risks and Vulnerability*, eds. Natalie Rauscher and Welf Werner. Heidelberg, Germany: Springer, "Risk, Governance, and Society" Series, 2025, 17-38. https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-96426-7_2.

"Listening to Facilitate Change: Youth and Indigenous Voices Call for Critical Environmental Justice at Great Salt Lake." USU Transforming Communities Institute: <https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/tcjournal/vol2/iss1/3/>.

Haq, S.M.A.; Mawa J.; Tasneem, N.; Saha B., Ahmed, M.N.Q. and Ahmed, K.J. (2025) Nexus Between Climate Change and Maternal Mortality: A Review of Literature. *SN Social Science*, Vol. 5, No. 175, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43545-025-01212-8>.

Ryder, S.; Theophilus, A.; Williams, C.E.; Brunner, E.; Ulrich-Schad, J.; Ahmed, M.N.Q.; Barkat, Z.; Fatema, N.; and Rowley, J. (2025). Understanding Socio-Environmental Concerns About Bear Lake: Findings from a Community-Engaged Teaching Study Transforming Communities, 2(1), <https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/tcjournal/vol2/iss1/2>.

"That's Not the Entire Story: Youth and Indigenous Voices Call for Intersectional Environmental and Multispecies Justice Approaches at Great Salt Lake." USU Transforming Communities Institute: <https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/tcpodcastsandvideo/1/>.

Theophilus, A., Ulrich-Schad, J.D. "Your Neighbors Are New Every Week: Short-Term Rentals, Housing, and Community Wellbeing in High-Amenity Rural Places." *Popul Environ* 47, 37 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11111-025-00508-4>.

CANRI Highlights

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



Sociology PhD student Sarah Woodbury had a busy semester of accomplishments. She was awarded the “Jack Greene Youth Conservation Leadership Award”; has danced as a shorebird across the state of Utah, including a performance in the Capitol during legislative session, and in the TEDx “Hello Mother Lake” performance; and is a published writer, scholar, and performer in such journals as Calyx, Sugar House Review, Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, the More-Than-Human Life Gathering, and The American Journal of Poetry. Her research focuses on multispecies justice and exploring Mormon conceptions of ecology and justice. She has a chapter on her work forthcoming in The Oxford Handbook of Multispecies Justice. She leads workshops in movement and poetry through Lake Apprentice, where she helps with teaching and creating earth-based art to foster relationships between people and place.



Creative Writing Master's student basil payne was awarded the Graduate Student Researcher of the year award for work on their poetry collection, tentatively titled “Specimen,” which focuses on the intersections of identity, ecology, and multimodality from the perspective of insects and trees. They have also recently published poems in literary journals including The Hemlock, Plants and Poetry Journal, Plant People, An Anthology of Environmental Artists, and Assignment, and won a graduate student award for their work at the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Conference in July.

CANRI Highlights

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



Sociology PhD student Alex Theophilus published research on the community impacts of short-term rental housing in the *Population and Environment* journal. Alex also presented research on topics including amenity migration and rural community wellbeing at the annual meetings of the International Association for Society and Natural Resources, Rural Sociological Society, and the Rural Population Research Network. He also spoke as an invited panelist on housing in tourism-dependent communities at the Association of Washington Cities Annual Meeting and the symposium of Washington State Destination Marketing Organizations. In addition to Alex's research, he worked this fall semester as an adjunct instructor of Intro to Rural Sociology at the University of Montana Western.



CANRI Interim Co-Director Stacia Ryder was featured on a PBS Utah panel on Great Salt Lake, "From Dust to Action: A Community Conversation. Work on D-I-Y air filters that she led in partnership with HEAL Utah was also featured on PBS Utah. In addition, a report she co-authored with MS student Bryn Watkins on farmer perceptions of Great Salt Lake issues was written about in Utah News Dispatch, and the story was picked up across several medial outlets that are part of Great Salt Lake Collaborative. In addition, along with MS student Nathan Thompson, Stacia thoroughly enjoyed doing an interactive lesson plan on the social and community impacts of Great Salt Lake with 6th graders at Voyage Academy in Clinton, UT.

Save the Date for these Spring 2025 Events!

- Jan 13 - 12-1pm, Lunch & Learn with Amanda Ramos
- Feb 2 - 12-1pm, Lunch & Learn with Jake Powell
- Feb 19, 4-5:15pm - Co-sponsored Tanner Talk, Dustin Edwards (see flyer)
- April 22 (Earth Day!) - Love Poems for the Earth
- Date TBD - Lunch & Learn with Matt Whitaker
- Date TBD - Growth & Balance Panel

The Tanner Talks Series Presents: "Ideas, Theories, Values, Truths, THESE THINGS ARE BETTER THAN GOLD" 2025-2026 O.C. Tanner



Data in the Desert:

Locating Digital Damage in Time, Place, and Culture

Speaker: Dustin Edwards
San Diego State University



4:00 - 5:15 p.m.
February 19, 2026
Carolyn Tanner Irish Pavilion
Scan Below to Register on Zoom
<https://usm.zoom.us/j/981234567890>

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



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