

# CANRI Newsletter Fall 2023

08/01/2023



Community & Natural Resource Institute  
Utah State University.

## CANRI NEWS FALL 2021

### Stokes Nature Center Social

It was great to get together at the start of the fall semester with so many affiliated undergraduate and graduate students and faculty (current and emeritus) to get to know one another better and start to brainstorm what CANRI can be in the future!



### Survey Results: Top Choices for CANRI Functions This Year

1. *Lunches with academic and non-academic speakers* - these are in the works!
2. *Social events* - see below for some upcoming outdoor events we have planned.
3. *Newsletter* - you are looking at it!

### Institute Name Change and New Logo

CANRI's name change is official! This summer we received approval to change our name from the ISSRNR, the Institute for Social Science and Research in Natural Resources, to CANRI, the Community and Nature Resource Institute. We hope this new name will be easier to remember and use and will increase our visibility and campus and in the region. We are excited to unveil our new logo!

### SAVE THE DATE - Upcoming Events

- *Fall Colors Hike*: Friday, October 8th, 3:00-5:00, at the Riverside Nature Trail in Logan Canyon. We will provide some trail refreshments, please RSVP to Jordan (jordan.hammon@usu.edu) if you would like to join by 10/6
- *Snowshoeing Social*: Friday, January 21, Join us for hot chocolate and a snowshoe up Green Canyon
- *Fall Speaker and Lunch*: Alan Matheson, *Exec. Director of Point of the Mountain Development*, Thursday, November 4th, 12:00-1:00 virtual and in-person options, Location TBD
- *Spring Speaker*: Dr. Dan Williams, *Forest Service Research Social Scientist*, virtual and in-person options, date TBD

### CANRI's Long-Term Goals Moving Forward

Given that many of the largest issues facing Utah, the U.S., and the planet now and in the future are centered on issues of the environment and natural resources, we are in the process of re-energizing CANRI (previously ISSRNR (Institute for Social Science Research on Natural Resources)). This will enhance USU's capacity to provide timely applied research to emergent issues that are important to decision-makers and stakeholders throughout the Intermountain West and beyond. Our long-term goals are to 1) be a well-known, and respected multidisciplinary institute for conducting and partnering on research and training students for applied and academic careers and 2) provide student, faculty, and community support for research to address pressing social and environmental issues and problems.

### CANRI-Related Campus Events

- [Ecology Seminar Series](#)
- [Thesis/Dissertation Information Sessions](#)
- [OCNR Seminar Series](#)

### CANRI Website Reboot

Check out CANRI's new (and still under progress) website where you can find information about the Institute, Student, Faculty, and Staff Bios, and what projects are currently underway.

- <https://chass.usu.edu/sociology/canri/index>

### Recent Graduates Where are they now?

- Dr. Micheal Briscoe: Assistant Professor of Sociology at Colorado State University-Pueblo
- Dr. Elham Hoominfar: Visiting Assistant Professor in Global Health Studies Northwestern University in Chicago
- Dr. Guizhen Ma: Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University
- Dr. Brett Miller: Postdoctoral fellow with U.S. Forest Service at the University of Montana

### News

- [Our own Drs. Courtney Flint and Jessica Schad are in USU Today](#) regarding a new NSF grant!



### Student Spotlight Matt Barnett

Each newsletter will feature a student and some of the current research they are doing.

My dissertation research focuses on resident attitudes about new uranium activity in three rural communities in Northwest New Mexico, including two communities located in the Navajo Nation. This area was once known as "the uranium capital of the world," and the uranium boom that took place there from the 1960s to the mid-1980s, and the subsequent bust, when most uranium mines and mills ceased operation, has had a profound and lasting impact on the environmental and social conditions in the area. Several new uranium development projects have been proposed there in subsequent years, which is a significant yet divisive subject of public debate among residents. Additionally, several reclamation and remediation efforts associated with past mining and milling are currently taking place in the area. With my dissertation, I am interested in contrasting residents' views across my three study communities about the prospect of new uranium activity in the area, particularly in terms of their environmental and economic concerns associated with that type of development. I am also interested in how the political and economic ideologies of residents are associated with their views about uranium activity. I have applied for several small grants to support this research. I have been fortunate to receive a Summer Award for Upper Division and Graduate Students from the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies and funding from Graduate Research and Creative Opportunity (GRCO) Program here at Utah State University. I have also submitted an application to the Mountain West Center for Regional Studies (MWC) Graduate Student Research Grants Program, which is currently under review.

If I can offer any advice to graduate students who are getting started on their dissertation, it would be to remain flexible and reflexive as they develop their dissertation proposal and begin conducting their research. While it is crucial to remain devoted to the core principles and concepts that drive your interest in your research project, conditions change, and you learn new things along the way, so it is important to be able to adapt as your research takes shape.