



COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

3RD ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE



May 19, 2020

1:00 – 5:00 PM



PRESENTATIONS

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE: URBAN WILDLIFE AS BIOINDICATORS OF STRUCTURAL RACISM, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, AND JUSTICE

Prof. Christopher Schell, University of Washington Tacoma



Dr. Chris Schell is an urban ecologist whose research integrates evolutionary theory with ecological application to disentangle the processes accentuating human-carnivore conflict. Specifically, Chris' interests lie in understanding how social determinants of the urban landscape (e.g., socioeconomics and residential segregation, specifically) contribute to shaping adaptive phenotypic traits in urban carnivores at the organismal level, and mammalian biodiversity at the community level. His work also leverages inferences from social-ecological-evolutionary feedbacks to build applied solutions that promote sustainability, conservation, and environmental justice across cities. Hence, his research is uniquely tied to the community: he often works closely with nondominant communities (e.g. ethnic and racial minorities), wildlife managers, cultural institutions, and philanthropic organizations to help foster mutually enriching relationships among people and wildlife.

WORKSHOP: SOCIAL WORK ACROSS THE 49TH PARALLEL: BIG SALMON RIVER AND COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY MODERNIZATION; UNDERSTANDING CHALLENGES TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH FIELD COURSES

Prof. Morna McEachern, UW Pacific Northwest Canadian Studies Consortium

Prof. Stan de Mello, UW School of Social Work



Dr. Morna McEachern is a student of social practices and policies, focusing on myriad aspects of the Columbia River Treaty modernization. Dr. McEachern is a designer and leader of Columbia River Treaty field courses. Her scholarship is focused on USA/Canada comparative policies, with a focus on allyship/accomplice activism with politically under-represented communities and groups. She is currently Program Manager for the Pacific Northwest Canadian Studies Consortium, Canada Center, Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington and has the not so common privilege of being a dual Canadian and US citizen.



Dr. Stan de Mello is a lecturer, field faculty, Affiliate Faculty-Canadian Studies and a member of the Community Centered Integrated Practice concentration at the UW School of Social Work. Stan and Dr. Morna McEachern (Canadian Studies) have been the recipients of several Canadian Studies Enhancement grants that have supported short student field trips across the 49th parallel over the past 10 years to better understand comparative social work practice and policies. Stan has a sustained interest in First Nations community development and has worked extensively with urban and rural communities in Canada and the United States.

PRESENTATIONS

WORKSHOP: RESOURCE MAPPING AND SYSTEMS THINKING FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF AN URBAN COMMUNITY GARDEN

Angela Patel, Danny Woo Community Garden



Angela graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2018 with a B.S. in Neuroscience and Behavior and a Poverty Studies Interdisciplinary Minor. After, she served as the Sustainable Community Program and Educational Coordinator at the Danny Woo Community Garden in Seattle's Chinatown-International District (CID) for one year before transitioning into her current role as Program Coordinator. She teaches gardening and environmental justice literacy to children in the CID and to teens through the Wilderness Inner City Leadership Development program. Working closely with Asian and Pacific Islander, immigrant, and refugee communities in the garden has helped her fully embrace and reclaim her own third-generation Asian American identity. It has also shaped her interests in place-based learning, biocultural diversity, structural racial equity, and inter-generational wisdom sharing. Angela will be attending the St. Louis University School of Medicine beginning August 2020 and intends to continue the pursuit of environmental justice in a city with one of the some of the most glaring environmental health disparities in the nation.

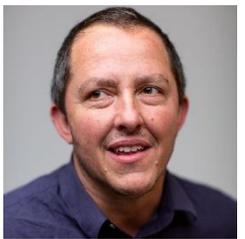
WORKSHOP: QUEER ECOLOGIES: SOLIDARITY, SCIENCE, POLITICS

Prof. Eli Wheat, UW Program on the Environment

Prof. Cleo Woelfle-Erskine, UW School of Marine and Environmental Affairs



Dr. Eli Wheat is faculty in the Program on the Environment at the University of Washington. Eli has a Ph.D. from UW, an M.A. Education from New York University, and B.S. in biology from Union College. He's won numerous awards for his teaching and sustainability work including the 2010 Excellence in Teaching Award, 2018 Husky Green Award, and the College of the Environment's Outstanding Teaching Faculty award. In addition to teaching sustainability and agriculture courses at UW, he owns and operates SkyRoot farm, a 20-acre, certified organic, integrated animal and vegetable farm on South Whidbey Island. In his spare time, Eli enjoys playing guitar, reading, and hanging out with his family.



Dr. Cleo Woelfle-Erskine's research focuses on ecological and social dimensions of human relations to rivers and their multi-species inhabitants. Trained in ecology, hydrology, geomorphology, critical social science, and feminist science and technology studies, he facilitates collaborative research in partnership with tribes, agencies, citizen scientists, and local community members. He is developing research projects on hydro-ecological and social effects of beaver relocation in eastern Washington, and environmental justice dimensions of fishing and shellfishing in urban Puget Sound.

PRESENTATIONS

WORKSHOP: OPPORTUNITY FOR INPUT: WASHINGTON'S EJ TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESSES & PRACTICES IN STATE GOVERNMENT

Elise Rasmussen, Washington State Board of Health
Sameer Ranade, Front & Centered



Elise Rasmussen graduated with a concurrent Master's in Public Health and Urban Planning from the University Washington. During her graduate school career, Elise interned at the Seattle Department of Transportation where she was the project coordinator for a racial equity analysis of the City's Safe Routes to School program. She also designed a process improvement plan for the City of Seattle's Equitable Development Initiative Fund to promote greater racial equity throughout the grantmaking process. Prior to graduate school, Elise was a teacher in schools that predominately served students of color in California's Bay Area. In her free time, she plays competitive Ultimate Frisbee, tutors students of all ages, spends time outdoors, cooks, and reads.



Since 2018, Sameer Ranade has worked on policy and community organizing at Front & Centered, a coalition focused on advancing racially and economically just solutions to pollution and climate change in Washington State. Sameer grew up in Kennewick, WA earned a B.A. in Political Science from WSU and an M.P.A. from UW. Sameer boasts extensive work experience in government, advocacy, and elections. His hobbies include writing environmental rhymes and sharing them at local open mics, reading NYT & Vox, and finding Seattle's most caffeinated coffee.

For more information regarding the UW College of the Environment office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion visit: <https://environment.uw.edu/about/diversity-equity-inclusion/>