Conference Organizers and University Collaboration

Three courses at the University of Oregon came together in Fall 2014 to exchange ideas, methodologies and research related to culture, sovereignty and indigenous peoples. Conference organizers Mark Carey, Kevin Hatfield, Kathy Lynn, and Jennifer O’Neal engaged their students in course activities that are culminating in this inter-disciplinary and collaborative event.

Conference and Course Themes

Decolonized Research: Traditional Knowledge, History and Science: All three courses explore the nexus of history, traditional knowledge and western thought and science that informs present-day decisions about indigenous resources and ways of life. Epistemologies of knowledge among indigenous peoples may look very different than the epistemologies of science. And yet, in the context of changing environments, the threats of climate change, and other events that are shaping indigenous communities today, traditional knowledge holds an important place in informing indigenous strategies for responding to these changing times. Decolonized research methods that rely on tribal leadership and direction can result in knowledge about indigenous issues that is culturally relevant and respectful of knowledge that must be held sacred by tribes and knowledge holders.

Cultural Values: Indigenous peoples are often tied to the earth through a relationship of reciprocity that shapes indigenous understanding of how impacts to the earth relate to impacts to indigenous culture. Understanding cultural values can more directly relate to how indigenous peoples may react or respond to significant changes. In the context of climate change, cultural resources may be threatened by changes in temperature and precipitation, rising sea levels, drought and wildfire. These impacts may directly threaten plant and animal species, or result in a loss of access that indigenous peoples have to these resources (and cultural relations).

Historic and Current Threats to Indigenous Sovereignty: The infrastructure of colonization has resulted in geographic borders and fixed allocations of rights that limit tribal access to historic lands, settlements and cultural resources. Climate change, viewed by Indigenous Scholar Daniel Wildcat as another “removal” of indigenous peoples, is threatening tribal sovereignty by placing further limits on access to cultural resources, and forcing relocation of indigenous peoples from their lands because of climate change.

Acknowledgements

The conference organizers extend their deepest thanks to Gordon Bettles, steward of the Many Nations Longhouse, for making it possible to host this event in such a sacred place. We thank Wisdom of the Elders for coming to record the keynote lecture, and Shayleen Macy for her beautiful artwork and offering a response to the keynote. We would also like to thank Carson Viles for his dedication, hard work and good spirits in coordinating many aspects of this conference. Thank you to the many individuals who have assisted with conference coordination, including Tonya White, Tawnie Freeman and Renee Dorjahn in the Honors College, RaDonna Aymong, Taylor West and Austin Macy in Environmental Studies, and Freya Brentmar with the Oregon Leadership in Sustainability Program. The HC444 instructors and students thank visiting scholar Jim Gardner and tribal community partners Myra Johnson Orange, Wilson Wewa, Shayleen Macy, Ruth and Randall Lewis, Beverly Beers, David Lewis, Valerie Switzter, and Dana Smith. Finally, we thank the sponsors of this event, the visiting speakers, the UO students who engaged tremendously throughout the course of the term, and all of the conference participants.

3rd Annual Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples Conference
December 2-3, 2014
Many Nations Longhouse, University of Oregon

This event is co-sponsored by the UO Williams Fund, UO Robert D. Clark Honors College, the UO Environmental Studies Program, the UO Climate Change Research Group, the Office of the Vice President for Equity and Inclusion, University Housing, and the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station. This conference is also part of the Tribal Climate Change Project, a collaborative project between the UO Environmental Studies Program and the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station.

Conference Organizers:
- Mark Carey, UO Clark Honors College
- Kevin Hatfield, UO Clark Honors and College and History
- Kathy Lynn, UO Environmental Studies Program
- Jennifer O’Neal, UO Libraries & Clark Honors College

*Poste artwork by Shayleen Macy © 2014
### Conference Agenda

**Tuesday, December 2nd**

5:00 pm: Student Poster Session and Reception *(Global Scholars Hall)*

6:15 pm: Awards for Best Posters announced

7:00 pm: Keynote Lecture *(Many Nations Longhouse)*
- Patricia Cochran, Alaska Native Science Commission
- Shayleene Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs *(respondent)*

**Wednesday, December 3rd** *(Many Nations Longhouse)*

8:45 – 9:00: Greetings and Coffee

9:00 - 9:10: Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:10 - 10:20: Decolonizing Research: Traditional Knowledge, History and Science
 Moderator: Kathy Lynn, Environmental Studies Program
- Indigenous knowledge of fire ecology and implications for California Condor Habitat, Conor Handley, Humboldt State University
- Assimilation and Activism: The Evolution of Northern Paiute Education Savannah Carter and Ayantu Megerssa, UO Clark Honors College – HC 444
- Two Birds with One Stone: An Analysis of Indigenous Petitions against the Global Climate Crisis, Nicholas Maurer, UO Clark Honors College – HC 434

10:30 - 12:00: Climate Impacts and Culture
 Moderator: Kevin Hatfield, Honors College
- Our Squirrels Will Have Elephant Ears: Indigenous Perspectives on Climate Change in the South Central United States Paulette Blanchard, University of Oklahoma
- The Effects on Dam Construction on the Traditional Foods and Cultural Practices of the Klamath People, Anthony Kollmorgen, UO Sociology and Native American Studies Program – ENVS 411
- From Policies to People: The Indian Reorganization Act at Warm Springs Reservation, Celia Easton Koehler, UO Clark Honors College UO – HC 444
- Prehistoric Human Adaptations to Climate Change: an Archaeological Case Study from the northern Great Basin Jordan Pratt, UO Clark Honors College – HC 434
- Climate change and culture change: Greenlandic indigenous peoples in the Little Ice Age, Hannah Fuller, UO Clark Honors College – HC 434

12:00 – 12:50: Lunchtime Discussion
- Role of federal-tribal climate change partnerships – Linda Kruger, USDA Forest Service PNW Research Station
- Keynote Q&A with UO students – Patricia Cochran, Alaska Native Science Commission

1:00 - 2:15: Sovereignty and Environmental Justice
 Moderator: Jennifer O’Neal, Honors College and UO Libraries
- Idle No More, Indigenous Feminisms and Deconstructing Ecomaterialism Erica Lee, University of Saskatchewan
- Ice Sheets and the Inuit People: Culture, Traditions and Food Sovereignty the Risk and Response of a Sovereign Nation Nicholas Sanchez, UO Environmental Studies Program – ENVS 411
- Traditional Persistence: The Past and Present Paiute Diet Ashleigh Dougill, UO Clark Honors College – HC 444
- Ecuador’s Yasuni-ITT Initiative: A Case Study on Changing Climate Change Mitigation Narratives Mairin Peck, UO Clark Honors College – HC 434
- How Translations (Dis)Empower Indigenous Identity Politics Charlotte Rheingold, UO Clark Honors College – HC 434

2:15 - 3:15: Case Studies
 Moderator: Mark Carey, Honors College
- Potential impacts of climate change on brackish water ecosystems of Keaukaha, Hawai’i Kamala Anthony, University of Hawai’i at Hilo
- Climate Change Adaptation in the NW: Planning for Culture and Resources Ettie Johnson, UO Environmental Studies Program – ENVS 411
- Tribal Rights to Shellfish Rights in the Face of Climate Change Kathryn Boyd-Batstone, University of Oregon – ENVS 411
- This Year the Birds Fly North: An Historical Short Story of Medicine Man Oytes and the Forced Removal of the Northern Paiute to Yakima Dean Dier, UO Clark Honors College – HC 444

3:15 – 3:30: Closing Remarks
### Poster Presentations (Alphabetical by Class)

**ENVS 411/511: Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples**
- Climate Change and the Lummi Tribe, Ryan Ahrling, UO Environmental Studies & Geography
- Ahupua’a, Traditional Management System Leading Towards a Resilient Hawai’i, Brian Farrar, UO Environmental Studies and Biology
- Sea Ice, Coastal Erosion, and the Inupiat: How indigenous relationships with the land and water influence responses to climate change, Dalton Fusco, UO Environmental Studies
- Exploitation and Destruction of the Waorani peoples in Ecuador, Katrina Henderson, Environmental Studies and Biology
- Indigenous Food Security in Response to Climate Change, Deion Jones, UO Environmental Studies
- Responding to Climate Change within Native American Housing Initiatives: Sustainability as a Vector for Promoting Quality of Life and Culture, Abraham Kelsa, UO Architecture
- The U’wa Tribe’s Struggle for Environmental Justice, Teja Kritika, UO International Studies
- Under Fire: Restoration and Information Use in the Willamette Valley, Phoebe Lett, UO Environmental Studies
- The impacts of climate change on traditional medicinal plants of North American tribes, Rêna Nénot, UO Environmental Studies
- The Effects of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Impacts to Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon, Kelsi Niece, UO Environmental Studies
- Amazon Dam Complex, Josh Noonan, UO Environmental Studies and Geography
- The Klamath River Basin: Moving from a colonial past toward a cooperative future, Jan Raether, UO Environmental Studies and Geography
- The Nooksack Tribe’s Plan for Adaptation, Emma Rubottom, UO Environmental Studies
- In the Belly of the Beast: Climate Change and the Inuit, Preet Singh, UO Environmental Science

**HC 434: Climate and Culture in the Americas**
- Changing Arctic Foodways, Ben Leamon, UO Clark Honors College
- The Guna People and Climate Change: Power Dynamics, Media Portrayals, and Cultural Resilience, Michael Enseki-Frank, UO Clark Honors College
- The Invisible Hands: How Neoliberalism and Climate Change affect Gender Roles, Megan Gleason, UO Clark Honors College
- The Doctor is Out: Climate Change and its Effects on Traditional Medicine for Canada’s First Peoples, Alex Hardin, UO Clark Honors College
- A Case from Pacific Island Archaeology Illustrating the Role of Anthropology in Countering Climate Reductionist Thinking, Sean Hixon, UO Clark Honors College
- Narrating Glaciers as Ruined Futures, M Jackson, University of Oregon
- Impacts of Climate Change on Inuit Communities: Food Security, Celine Johnson, UO Clark Honors College
- Mental health decline as a result of the loss of place-attachment, Emma Kleck, University of Oregon
- Fire and Forests: Culture and Annual Prairie Burning of the Kalapuya, Wade Martin, UO Clark Honors College
- Dominant Narratives Surrounding Deforestation, Climate, and Indigenous Rights in the Amazon, Julia Metzler, UO Clark Honors College
- Buen Vivir: the challenges to living better, Helena Schlegel, UO Clark Honors College
- Responsibility, Action, and Agency: The Marshall Island Response to Climate Change, Elizabeth Strickland, UO Clark Honors College
- Climate Science, Indigenous Knowledge, and the Humanities in the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC, Andrew Swift, UO Clark Honors College
- Climate Change, Health and Safety in the Arctic: An Examination of the Effect of Declining Sea Ice on Indigenous Arctic Peoples, Jonathan Wallace, UO Clark Honors College
- The Effects of Global Climate Change on the Migration Patterns and Habitat of Sea Mammals and its Impact on Culture and Lifestyles of Arctic Indigenous Tribes, Alex Worth, UO Clark Honors College

**HC 444: Decolonizing Research: The Northern Paiute History Project**
- The Warm Springs Boarding School: Constructing White Femininity While Destabilizing Female Tribal Identity, Eva Bertoglio, UO Clark Honors College
- Who was Chief Paulina? Restoration History and the Reconstruction of Paulina’s Identity in Popular Memory, Sarianne Harris, UO Clark Honors College
- The Malheur Reservation: An Examination of the Rights of the Northern Paiutes from Founding to Closing, Sophie Hoover, UO Clark Honors College
- Hidden Hunters: The Little-Known Native Soldiers that Changed Warfare in the West, Tyler Jorgensen, UO Clark Honors College
- The Varying Representation of Northern Paiute Historical Narratives in Oregon Museums, Spencer Kales, UO Clark Honors College
- A True Northern Paiute Hero: An Analysis of Chief Egan and his Leadership in the Bannock-Paiute War of 1878, Kevin Lai, UO Clark Honors College
- The Search for Peace on the Brink of Annihilation: Chiefs Paulina and Weahewea and the Peace Agreement of 1868, Alec Malnati, UO Clark Honors College
- The Mentality of Massacre: The Frame of Mind of Oregon’s Colonizers Towards the Northern Paiutes, Caleb Nelson, UO Clark Honors College
- Boarding School Education and the Defense of Culture, Hannah Osborn, UO Clark Honors College
- Timber Economics of the Northern Paiutes, Sage Parker, UO Clark Honors College
- “Civilizing” the Northern Paiute Through Christianization, Hannah Saraceno, UO Clark Honors College
- Joel Palmer, the Oregon Superintendency and the Northern Paiutes, 1853–1856, Daniella Stach, UO Clark Honors College
- An Underrepresented Take on the Treaty of 1855: The Northern Paiute Experience and Perspective, Dar Yoon, UO Clark Honors College
Biographies

Patricia Cochran, Alaska Native Science Commission
Patricia Cochran is the Executive Director of the Alaska Native Science Commission, an organization that brings together research and science in partnership with Alaska Native communities. Ms. Cochran also served as Chair of the 2009 Indigenous Peoples’ Global Summit on Climate Change and is Co-Chair of the Indigenous Peoples’ Global Network on Climate Change. She is the past Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, an international organization representing 160,000 Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Russian and Greenland; former Chair of the Indigenous Peoples’ Secretariat to the 8 nation, Arctic Council; and former Arctic Representative to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Ms. Cochran has served as Principal and Co-Principal Investigator on numerous research projects throughout the Arctic, including the Community Partnership for Self Reliance & Sustainability, Traditional Knowledge and Contaminants Project, Indigenous Knowledge Systems Colloquium and Bering Sea Sub Network. Ms. Cochran has extensive knowledge of key issues impacting Arctic communities and has spoken at forums worldwide. She has written numerous publications and appeared internationally on programs reporting on climate change and indigenous issues. Ms. Cochran has served as Science Advisor to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission and Chair of the Indigenous People’s Working Group for the International Congress on Circumpolar Health. She currently serves as a Board Member of the Alaska Forum on the Environment, Advisory Board Member of the Arctic Circle, and a Chapter Author of the National Climate Assessment. Ms. Cochran was born and raised in Nome, Alaska.

Shayleen Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Shayleen Macy is a Wasco/Yakima/Warm Springs member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. She is a language teacher at the Warm Springs Culture and Heritage Department teaching Ishishkiin, the language of the Warm Springs people, and Kiksh the Wasco language. Shayleen is also studying the language and culture of all three tribes, the Wasco, Warm Springs, and Paiute. She obtained a Bachelor of Fine Art degree with a Minor in Business at the University of Oregon in 2014. While at college, Shayleen studied Chinuk Wawa and Yakima Sahaptin, two other languages of the Columbia River Plateau Indians. Shayleen is also a fisher and practices her tribal fishing rights. To Shayleen, environmental issues, the arts, language, and commerce are all important aspects of the culture of the Columbia River Plateau Indians and she enjoys learning and passing on these traditions.

Linda Kruger, USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station
Linda Kruger is a social science researcher with the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station and is based at the Juneau Forestry Sciences Lab. She also serves as the USDA Forest Service Tribal Liaison for the PNW Research Station.

Kamala Anthony, University of Hawaii at Hilo
Born and raised on Hawaii Island, I grew up at Waiuli along the coast of Keaukaha in the district of Hilo. The ocean coastline has been my playground and laboratory of which I have drawn most of my knowledge of the ocean. It has also ignited my interest and commitment to caring for our ocean environment and working towards a sustainable lifestyle by means of our loko i’a (Hawaiian fishponds). What must I understand and practice to bring fishponds to a healthy and thriving status in our communities in our modern time? This is my current interest and focus for my studies in graduate school and eventually in a profession that will manage and maintain these sustainable practices. I am in my final semester at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, majoring in Agriculture with a specialty in Aquaculture.

Paulette Blanchard, University of Oklahoma
Paulette Blanchard is a member of the Absentee Shawnee tribe and is a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. Ms. Blanchard is in the College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences in the Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability researching impacts of climate variability on Native Americans in the south central region. Ms. Blanchard has a B.A. degree in Indigenous and American Indian Studies from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence Kansas as well as an A.A. in Social Science from Seminole State College in Seminole Oklahoma. Her specific focus relates to the social science of climate change related to the American Indians. She anticipates working with tribes across the nation to address climate change issues.

Conor Handley, Humboldt State University
Conor Handley, is of the Yoeame (Yaqui) People of the Sonoran Desert. His research focuses on using oral histories to determine and restore potential California Condor habitat, using traditional ecological care-taking methods such as culturally based prescribed fire. He currently attends Humboldt State University and is studying Rangeland Resource Science, with a minor Native American Studies, Natural Resources & Environment.

Erica Lee, University of Saskatchewan
Erica Violet Lee (Nehiyaw/Plains Cree) is a Philosophy and Political Studies student at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Canada. Her research interests include Indigenous feminisms, critical perspectives on nature and environmentalism, and anti-oppressive education. Active with Idle No More and similar movements addressing Indigenous sovereignty in the Canadian context, Erica also works in the community as a mentor and advocate for First Nations youth in schools.