



MINDFULNESS FOR EARTH

Charting a Path for Higher Education

October 19-21, 2022
Old Saybrook, CT

Mindfulness for Earth: Charting a Path for Higher Education

Dates: October 19-22, 2022

Location: Saybrook Point, 2 Bridge St, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Phone: (860) 395-2000

WORKSHOP PREMISE

The current environmental and spiritual crises are deeply intertwined. *Mindfulness for Earth* connects human consciousness and awareness of the present moment with an appreciation of the earth's ecosystems that we inhabit. Research indicates that time spent in nature improves both physical and emotional well-being, with active environmental engagement having more benefit than passive exposure. By focusing the mind on the natural world around us with intention, we can improve the health of socio-ecological systems.

Neuroscience research reaffirms mindfulness as a skill and lifestyle that can be developed to cultivate awareness of one's inner and outer environment. While the inner environment refers to one's habitual tendencies, the outer environment refers to planet Earth, its climate, bio-geochemical cycles and complex ecosystems.

The well-being of humans and the natural environment are intricately woven together. What that means for higher education is the focus of this workshop.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Workshop participants will explore mindfulness for earth in higher education and propose creative ways to promote community-wide mindful forms of environmental engagement. We will discuss relevant research as well. A key objective for the group will be to identify innovative mindfulness for earth practices specifically for higher education curricula, co-curricular activities and campus health and wellness services.

We hope to make a positive impact on student, faculty and staff emotional well-being while also transforming their personal relationships with nature, including more awareness of individual carbon footprints and environmentally destructive lifestyles. We will also be developing forms of pedagogy to help reduce human consumption of energy and natural resource exploitation more broadly.

The workshop will bring together approximately 35 scholars, practitioners, students and university administrators.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022

- 6:00 – 9:00 pm** **Welcome Dinner**
Daniel Weiner, *Vice President for Global Affairs and Professor, Department of Geography, UConn*
Kumanga Andrahennadi, *Co-Founder, Mindfulness for Earth, and Founder, CALM: Centre for Advanced Learning of Mindfulness*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022

- 8:00 – 8:45 am** **Breakfast**
- 8:45 – 9:30 am** **Participant Introductions**
Daniel Weiner, *Vice President for Global Affairs and Professor, Department of Geography, UConn*
Kumanga Andrahennadi, *Co-Founder, Mindfulness for Earth, and Founder, CALM: Centre for Advanced Learning of Mindfulness*

SESSION I: MINDFULNESS FOR EARTH - A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

- 9:30 – 10:45 am** **Mindfulness for Earth: Concepts**
Session Leaders:
Kumanga Andrahennadi, *Co-Founder, Mindfulness for Earth and Founder, CALM: Centre for Advanced Learning of Mindfulness*
U Dhammajīva Mahā Thero, *Abbot, Chief Preceptor and Meditation Master of Nissarana Vanaya Monastery and Founder, Sati Pasala Foundation*
- 10:45 – 11:00 am** **Tea/Coffee Break**
- 11:00 – 12:15 pm** **The Role of Mindfulness in Religious Traditions**
Session Leaders:
John Grim, *Co-Director of the Forum on Religion & Ecology, Yale University*
Mary Evelyn Tucker, *Co-Director of the Forum on Religion & Ecology, Yale University*
- 12:15 – 1:15 pm** **Lunch**

SESSION II: MINDFULNESS FOR EARTH RESEARCH

- 1:30 – 2:45 pm** **Environmental Compassion**
Moderator: **Zahra Ali**, *Ph.D. Student, Plant Science & Landscape Architecture, UConn*
U Dhammajīva Mahā Thero, *Abbot, Chief Preceptor and Meditation Master of Nissarana Vanaya Monastery and Founder, Sati Pasala Foundation in Sri Lanka*
Rana Al Qaimari, *Program Manager, EcoPeace Middle East*

Kumanga Andrahennadi, *Co-Founder, Mindfulness for Earth, and Founder, CALM: Centre for Advanced Learning of Mindfulness*

2:45 – 3:15 pm **Mindful Movement and Tea/Coffee Break**

3:15 – 4:30 pm **Research on Nature & Wellbeing**

Moderator: **Kumanga Andrahennadi**, *Co-Founder, Mindfulness for Earth, and Founder, CALM: Centre for Advanced Learning of Mindfulness*

Nashaw Jafari, *Project Administrator, Sadhguru Center for a Conscious Planet, Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School*

Dimitris Xygalatas, *Associate Professor, Anthropology Department, UConn*

Sohyun Park, *Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, UConn*

4:30 - 5:00 pm **Reflections on the Day**

Session Leader: **Daniel Weiner**, *Vice President for Global Affairs and Professor, Department of Geography, UConn*

6:00 – 8:00 pm **Dinner**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022

7:30 – 8:30 am **Mindfulness in Nature Outdoor Practice Session**

Phoebe Godfrey and Kumanga Andrahennadi will lead the group in this outdoor mindfulness practice session.

8:30 – 9:30 am **Breakfast**

SESSION III: MINDFULNESS FOR EARTH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

9:30 - 10:45 am **Integrating Mindfulness & Nature-Based Learning**

Moderator: **Zahra Ali**, *Ph.D. Student, Plant Science & Landscape Architecture, UConn*

Phoebe Godfrey, *Professor in Residence, Department of Sociology, UConn*

Kumanga Andrahennadi, *Co-Founder, Mindfulness for Earth and Founder, CALM: Centre for Advanced Learning of Mindfulness*

Athulya Narayanan, *Undergraduate Student, Environmental Studies, UConn*

Zareen Reza, *Undergraduate Student, Environmental Studies, UConn*

Juan Pablo Yepes, *Undergraduate Student, Department of Sociology, UConn*

10:45 – 11:00 am **Tea/Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:15 pm **UConn – A Living Laboratory: Nature Rx & Spring Valley Farm**

Moderator: **Zahra Ali**, *Ph.D. Student, Plant Science & Landscape Architecture, UConn*

Cynthia Jones, *Professor Emerita, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Director of the Plant Biodiversity Conservatory and Research Core, UConn*
Jessica Larkin-Wells, *Farm Manager, UConn Spring Valley Student Farm*

12:15 – 1:15 pm

Lunch

(Note: Return with one thought on nature you experienced during lunch)

SESSION IV: ROADMAP FOR MINDFULNESS FOR EARTH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Building a Mindfulness for Earth Roadmap for Higher Education

Moderator: **Ngozi Taffe**, *Associate Vice President for Global Affairs, UConn*

Kristina Stevens, *Director of Mental Health, Student Health and Wellness, UConn*

Claire Dutton, *Graduate Assistant, Dean of Students Office, UConn*

Kumanga Andrahennadi, *Co-Founder, Mindfulness for Earth & Founder, CALM: Centre for Advanced Learning of Mindfulness*

3:00 – 3:30 pm

Mindfulness Movement and Tea/Coffee Break

3:30 – 4:30 pm

Group Reflections & Action Items

Moderators:

Kumanga Andrahennadi, *Co-Founder, Mindfulness for Earth & Founder, CALM: Centre for Advanced Learning of Mindfulness*

Daniel Weiner, *Vice President for Global Affairs and Professor, Department of Geography, UConn*

6:30 – 8.30 pm

Closing Dinner

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND: DEPARTURE

9:00 – 10:00 am

Optional Outdoor Yoga

9:00 – 11:00 am

Departure

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

Iyad Abumoghli, Ph.D.

Founder and Director, Faith for Earth, UN Environment Programme

Iyad Abumoghli has more than 38 years of experience with international organizations, the private sector, and scientific institutions. Abumoghli's expertise is in strategic planning, sustainable development, interfaith collaboration, knowledge and innovation. Currently, Abumoghli is the Lead Principal Advisor on Engaging with Faith-Based Organizations at UNEP. Previously Abumoghli held several leading positions including as the Regional Director and Representative of UNEP in West Asia 2012-2017, Director of Knowledge and Innovation at UNDP's Regional Office in Cairo 2009-2012, Senior Environment Advisor at UNDP's Sub-Regional Resource Facility in Beirut 2006-2009, Global Practice Manager for the Energy and Environment Group in New York 2003-2006, Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP in Jordan 1997-2003.

Abumoghli adopts a holistic multi-sectoral approach to development ensuring cross-thematic integration with internal and external partners.

Abumoghli holds a Ph.D. in Bio-Chemical Engineering from the University of Bath, UK, an outstanding graduate of the Virtual Development Academy – Johns University and a BA in Chemical Engineering from University of Jordan.

Zahra Ali

Ph.D. Student, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, UConn

Zahra Ali joined the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture Ph.D. program in Fall 2022. Her research focus is on the impacts of outdoor learning environments and nature/place-based curricula on learning outcomes, health, wellness, and long-term relationships with the environment—with a focus on equitable access to nature in urban communities both locally and globally. Ali is a research assistant in Dr. Sohyun Park's Sustainable Urban Planning & Ecology Research Lab, as well as for Vice President for Global Affairs Daniel Weiner's Mindfulness for Earth initiative. She also continues to serve on the Abrahamic Story of the Tree working group for the Office of Global Affairs.

Prior to starting her doctoral studies, Ali was the Director of the Global Partnerships & Outreach, in UConn's Office of Global Affairs. She worked in collaboration with faculty, university leadership and partners around the world to advance UConn's global initiatives and foster engagement with global networks.

She holds an M.S. in Global Affairs, with specialization in energy and environmental policy from New York University, and a B.S. in International Business from the University of Rhode Island.

Rana Al Qaimari

Program Manager, EcoPeace Middle East

Rana Al Qaimari is the Program Manager at EcoPeace Middle East, Palestine Office. Originally from Ramallah, Palestine, Qaimari holds an MA from Birzeit University in Water Science and Technology. Qaimari has fifteen years of professional experience in education directly related to water and environmental education. Additionally, she has three years of experience working as a Program Officer for the EU Erasmus+ Office in Palestine. Qaimari has been an Environmental Coordinator for youth environmental awareness programmes for the Palestinian Academy for Science & Technology, the Royal Society for Protection of Nature, Latin Patriarchate Schools and the Hellen Medien Projekte/ Peter Maffey foundation. Qaimari worked as deputy principal for Al-Ahliyyah College School, Catholic High school in Ramallah from 1998-2014.

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Kumanga Andrahennadi, Ph.D.

Co-Founder of Mindfulness for Earth (mindfulness4earth.org)

Founder of CALM: Centre for the Advanced Learning of Mindfulness (calmmindfulness.org)

Kumanga Andrahennadi is a co-organizer of the 'Mindfulness for Earth' workshop, and has been critical in efforts to pull this workshop together. She is a mindfulness researcher, educator and a consultant with over 20 years of experience in delivering mindfulness-based programmes in the West for children, young people and adults. As the Founder of CALM: Centre for Advanced Learning of Mindfulness, Andrahennadi pioneers delivering the eco-contemplative framework under the 'Advanced Mindfulness-Based Practices (AMBP)' Programmes, within the public, private and government sectors including to Mental Health, Education, Police Organizations and Private Corporations in the U.K. and internationally. The AMBP Programmes consists of the onsite and online 'Mindfulness for Earth' and 'Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy' 4/8-week courses, the 'AMBP Teacher Training Programme' as well as 'Mindfulness in Nature' retreats.

Through CALM, Andrahennadi co-organized the first-ever dialogue between His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and a Western Police Force (the Metropolitan Police, U.K.), which took place as a live online dialogue on July 8, 2020 (watch the full dialogue here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EDL8ITjJ-w>). Andrahennadi is also the Co-Founder of 'Mindfulness for Earth', an international initiative established in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Faith for Earth.

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Erik Assadourian

Director, Gaian Way

Erik Assadourian, a sustainability researcher, writer, and consultant, is the founder and director of the Gaian Way, a new ecophilosophy and religious community (gaianism.org). For 17 years Assadourian served as senior fellow and researcher with the Worldwatch Institute. There he directed two editions of Vital Signs, and five editions of State of the World, including the 2017 edition (EarthEd: Rethinking Education on a Changing Planet); the 2013 edition (Is Sustainability Still Possible?); and the 2010 edition (Transforming Cultures: From Consumerism to Sustainability). He also designed Catan: Oil Springs, an eco-educational scenario for the popular board game The Settlers of Catan. Recognizing that a sustainable future requires radical cultural change, Erik founded a new philosophy and religious community of practice in 2019.

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Carol Atkinson-Palombo Ph.D
Professor, Department of Geography, UConn

Carol Atkinson-Palombo is a Professor in the University of Connecticut's Department of Geography, and served as the Director of UConn's Environmental Studies Program from 2017-2022.

Having trained for five years as a National Science Foundation IGERT scholar in Urban Ecology, she has been trained to collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to pursue use-inspired policy-relevant research. She uses geographical techniques such as GIS-based spatial analysis, statistical modelling, and qualitative methods to assess the impact of policies intended to promote sustainable cities. Much of her work to date has focused on transportation sustainability, which shapes a wide array of societal concerns such as air pollution, land use, global climate change, and social and environmental equity.

An emerging area of interest is the ongoing transition to a low carbon economy in the United States, and the debates about what role technology will play in this transition. She is also interested in understanding what factors shape the social acceptance of technology, particularly renewable energy technologies.

She engages in a wide range of service activities for the University, as well as national and international bodies, and has a deep and abiding commitment to equity and diversity.

Oksan Bayulgen, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of Political Science, UConn

Oksan Bayulgen is a political scientist with specialization on energy transitions, environmental politics, democratization and development. She has conducted extensive field work in Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Norway, and Turkey with the help of numerous external and university grants. Her first book (Cambridge University Press 2010) was on the relationship between regime types and foreign investments in the oil industry. She has numerous articles in leading journals such as *Environmental Politics*, *Energy Research and Social Science*, *Journal of Human Rights*, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, and *International Studies Review*. She teaches courses on politics in developing countries, politics of oil, introduction to comparative politics, politics and foreign policies of Russia, democratization, and sustainable energy. Her new book (Michigan University Press, 2022) is on the politics of clean energy development in developing countries.

Michael Bradford
Vice Provost for Faculty, Staff, and Student Development
Professor, Department of Dramatic Arts, UConn

As Vice Provost for Faculty, Staff, and Student Development, Michael Bradford oversees all activities in the Provost's Office aimed at transforming the experience and success of all members of our community. This role includes faculty recruitment, retention, and onboarding; faculty and academic staff development and recognition; faculty and academic staff equity and access; and student success and equity initiatives.

At UConn, Bradford has held roles as department head of Dramatic Arts, artistic director of the Connecticut Repertory Theatre, and faculty director for the SchOLA²RS House Learning Community. Bradford is professor of dramatic arts and teaches theatre history, dramatic literature, and playwriting. His full-length and one-act plays have been produced at various venues in New York, including Off-Broadway at the American Place Theatre, the LARK Play Developmental Center, and the Ensemble Studio Theatre. Regionally and internationally, his work has premiered at the Hygienic Arts Theatre (New London, CT), eta Creative Arts Foundation, Inc. (Chicago), the Playhouse on Park Theatre (Hartford, CT), the HERE Art Center (NYC), A Contemporary Theatre (Seattle), the Connecticut Repertory Theatre (Storrs, CT), and the Brixton East Theatre, London. His workshops, readings, and residencies include the Manhattan Theatre Club Playwriting Fellowship (NYC), The Negro Ensemble Co. at the Signature Theatre (NYC), Liminal Studios (London), the LARK Developmental Theatre (NYC), the New York Stage and Film Company Residency at Vassar, NY, and the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism Writing Fellowship. In 2013 his play OLIVES AND BLOOD was translated into Spanish for a staged reading in the Federico Garcia Salon at the Centro Cultural Dulce Maria Loynaz (Havana, Cuba).

Internationally, he is the recipient of the Research Scholar Fulbright to Granada, Spain, has led writing workshops at Teatro Oficina Theatre Company, Guimareas, Portugal and the University of Theatre, Tirgu-Mures, Romania. His work is published by Dr. Cicero Press (Woodstock, NY), Broadway Play Publishing, Inc. (NY, NY) and can also be found in the anthology, "Seven More Different Plays", edited by Mac Wellman.

Bradford holds a Master's of Fine Arts from Brooklyn College CUNY and a bachelor's in general studies from UConn.

Jeanne Ciravolo

Director, Alexey von Schlippe Gallery of Art, Avery Point Campus

Assistant Professor in Residence, Department of Art & Art History, UConn

Jeanne Ciravolo is a visual artist whose work amplifies female narratives in painting and experimental drawing practices on found domestic textiles. She earned an MFA from the University of Connecticut, a BFA from the University of Miami, and currently teaches studio art and is the Director of the Alexey von Schlippe Gallery at the University of Connecticut Avery Point campus.

Ciravolo has exhibited her work nationally in museums and galleries including the Yellowstone Museum, Coral Springs Museum, and the New Britain Museum of American Art. Publications of her work include Manifest Gallery's International Painting Annual 10 and International Drawing Annual 15. She has been awarded the Walter Feldman Fellowship from the Boston Arts and Business Council and artist residencies at the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Science, the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, and the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies.

Ciravolo is also a commissioned portrait painter whose works are in the public collections of the Connecticut Appellate Court, the New Haven District Superior Court and the Hartford Juvenile Court.

Manisha Desai, Ph.D.
Head & Professor, Department of Sociology
Professor of Asian American Studies, UConn

Manisha Desai is the Head of the Department of Sociology and Professor of Sociology and Asian and Asian American Studies at the University of Connecticut and a Senior Research Fellow at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) in Geneva, Switzerland. Her areas of research and teaching include gender and globalization, transnational feminisms and women's human rights, and social movements in India. Her most recent book is *Subaltern Movements in India: The Gendered Geography of Struggles Against Neoliberal Development* (Routledge 2016). In addition, she has 4 other single authored or edited and co-edited books and numerous articles and book chapters. Currently she's working on several projects including what UNRISD calls the new Eco-Social Contract, examining how women's rights, land rights, and climate change intersect in women's movements in Northeastern CT and India; decolonizing the academy and social theory; as well as contemporary feminist campaigns against Hindu fundamentalism in India.

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Claire Dutton
Graduate Assistant, Dean of Students Office, UConn

Claire Dutton joined the Dean of Students Office staff as a graduate assistant in August 2021. She is pursuing her Master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs at UConn through the Neag School of Education. Dutton attended Kenyon College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. After graduating from her undergraduate institution, Dutton worked at an eating disorder treatment center in Boston as a mental health worker and then as the program coordinator. She then moved to Los Angeles where she was the project manager for a mental health and wellness retreat company.

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Zoe Folsom
Ph.D. Student, Department of Sociology, UConn

Zoe Folsom (she/they) is in her second year of the UConn's sociology graduate program. She's currently working on a thesis analyzing the governance and mythology of the voluntary carbon offset market. She also writes creatively about the importance of relationship and intimacy for confronting our current ecological crises

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Jeremy R. Geller, Ph.D.
Affiliate, Gateway International Group

Jeremy Geller is an international education consultant with the Gateway International Group where some current and potential clients are committed to re-visioning international education with attention to UN Sustainable Development Goals and in more sustainable and reciprocal modes. The bulk of his professional career was as an administrator for international education, and particularly as an advisor and director of study abroad, at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Ramapo College of New Jersey, and the University of New Haven. Since retiring from full-time work he completed UConn's School of Public Policy Encore! Connecticut program during which he undertook a carbon footprint study for Hartford's Operation Fuel, a project that refreshed in a policy and energy-justice context his interests in the place of human actors in natural systems, which evolved through archaeological fieldwork in the Nile Valley and work

as a park ranger in the semi-arid Southwestern U.S. His "Warhol moment" as an archaeologist was the discovery and identification of the world's oldest known brewery at Hierakonpolis, Egypt. Along the way he has taught anthropology, archaeology, and seminars in experiential learning.

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Audrey Girard

Assistant Teacher, Center for the Advanced Learning of Mindfulness (CALM)

Audrey Girard is an Assistant Teacher of the Advanced Mindfulness-Based Practices (AMBP) 4/8-Week Courses for CALM, and an Associate Teacher Trainer of the 'AMBP Teacher Training Programme'. She is also a Yoga Alliance certified Yoga Teacher. Girard has over ten years of experience practicing yoga, meditation and dance with a current focus as a practitioner, educator and researcher of contemplative practices. She is passionate about opening the curtain to a healthy body, knowing the mind and cultivating wisdom. Girard is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Montreal studying contemplative practices in organisational contexts. She is interested in understanding how practices such as meditation and yoga can benefit workers and industry.

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Phoebe Godfrey, Ph.D.

Professor in Residence of Sociology, UConn

"An ounce of practice is worth more than tons of preaching." - Gandhi

Phoebe Godfrey has come to recognize the truth of Gandhi's wisdom and so her interests are focused on how to put her personal commitments to equality, justice and ecological/social sustainability into practice through her research, teaching, activism and art, all of which she sees as inseparable. To this end she teaches courses on Society and Climate Change, Sustainable Societies, Sociology of Food, as well as Social Theory and is currently developing a new course Human Societies and the Living Earth. In all these courses she focuses on student engagement and empowerment through creative critical thinking, as well as embodied health and healing. She sees her teaching as activism and seeks to invite students to collectively find ways to put social justice ideas into practice. In addition, she seeks to help students develop their own academic and professional skills in multiple ways including publishing with them, working with honors students, supporting student research, activism, grants and other areas of interest.

This commitment to highlighting practice and not just 'preaching' is showcased in her first book Understanding just sustainabilities from within: A case study of a shared-use commercial kitchen in Connecticut, published summer 2021 by Routledge. She is also the co-editor of another book focused on 'just sustainabilities' Global [Im]-Possibilities: Exploring the Paradoxes of Just Sustainabilities, also being published summer of 2021 published by Zed Books / Bloomsbury Press. Her other two co-edited volumes Systemic crises of global climate change: Intersections of race, class and gender (2016) and Emergent possibilities for global sustainability: Intersections of race, class and gender (2016) are also both published by Routledge and are the ones she uses in her classes Society and Climate Change and Sustainable Societies. She uses her most recent book in her Sociology of Food course.

Amy Gorin, Ph.D.

Interim Vice Provost for Health Sciences

Professor, Department of Psychological Sciences, UConn

Amy Gorin is a Professor of Psychological Sciences and Interim Vice Provost for Health Sciences at the University of Connecticut. For several years, she served as Director of the Institute for the Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIP). Her research focuses on developing and evaluating innovative treatment strategies to improve long-term weight loss and maintenance with an emphasis on environmental processes that impact weight management. Recent projects include a couples-based approach to weight loss and obesity prevention programs for children and emerging adults. Gorin's research has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health.

John Grim, Ph.D.

Co-founder, Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology

Senior Lecturer and Senior Research Scholar, School of the Environment, Divinity School, and Religious Studies Department, Yale University

John Grim is a Senior Lecturer and Research Scholar teaching in the joint MA program in religion and ecology at Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and Yale Divinity School. He is co-founder and co-director of the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale with his wife, Mary Evelyn Tucker. With Tucker, Grim directed a 10 conference series and book project at Harvard on "World Religions and Ecology."

Grim is the author of *The Shaman: Patterns of Religious Healing Among the Ojibway Indians* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1983) and editor of *Indigenous Traditions and Ecology: The Interbeing of Cosmology and Community* (Harvard, 2001). Grim and Tucker are co-authors of *Ecology and Religion* (Island Press, 2014). Together they edited Thomas Berry's books and published *Thomas Berry: A Biography* (Columbia University Press, 2019). They have edited the following volumes: *Worldviews and Ecology* (Orbis, 1994); *Religion and Ecology: Can the Climate Change?* (Daedalus 2001); *Thomas Berry: Selected Writings on the Earth Community* (Orbis, 2014); and *Living Cosmology: Christian Responses to Journey of the Universe* (Orbis, 2016), and with Willis Jenkins the *Routledge Handbook on Religion and Ecology* (Routledge, 2016). Grim is the co-executive producer of the Emmy award winning film, *Journey of the Universe*.

Grim holds a Ph.D. and MA in the History of Religions from Fordham University and BA in Theology and History from St. John's University.

Alexandra Harden

Ph.D. Student, Department of Geography, UConn

Alexandra Harden is a geography Ph.D. student at the University of Connecticut. Her research focuses on climate change adaptation and adaptation labor. As an area of focus, climate adaptation labor remains a missing component of climate change scholarship and policy initiatives. Therefore, her dissertation work seeks to understand and identify how climate change adaptation labor is framed, implemented, valued, and maintained in global initiatives.

Prior to UConn, Harden completed her MA at Columbia University in climate and society and received a BA from Colgate University in political science and writing and rhetoric.

Alexandra Hussey

Intern, UN Faith for Earth, UN Environment Programme

Alexandra Hussey is a senior studying International Relations and Political Science with a teaching study minor at Wellesley College. In addition to her role as an intern for UN Faith for Earth, this year she also serves as a fellow at the Madeleine Korbel Albright Institute for Global Affairs. Her engagement with environment studies spans earth science education, clean energy policy advocacy, and bioluminescent research.

Nashaw Jafari

Project Administrator, Sadhguru Center for a Conscious Planet, Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care & Pain Medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School

Nashaw Jafari graduated from Soka University of America with a BA in Liberal Arts and a concentration in Social and Behavioral Sciences. She continued to Alliant International University where she received her MA in Clinical Psychology. She also completed a Master of Acupuncture (M.Ac.) with a Chinese Herbal Medicine specialization at Emperor's College. Jafari's research interest is in exploring the impact of mind-body interventions on emotional and mental well-being.

Cynthia Jones, Ph.D.

**Professor Emerita and Research Scientist,
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UConn**

Cynthia Jones is Professor Emerita and Research Scientist in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut. She first became captivated by plants as an undergraduate in the University of California system and has had the great fortune to spend her career researching, teaching, and promoting her passion for plant form and function. She has served as the President of the Botanical Society of America and is currently the Director of the UConn Plant Biodiversity Conservatory and Research Core (otherwise known as the EEB Greenhouses). In 2019, she received a University Award and an AAUP Award for Teaching Innovation for her development of a studio-type model for traditional lecture-lab courses that resulted in deeper, more inquiry-driven engagement of students with the material. In both teaching and research, she has taken to heart the words of her Ph.D. advisor at UC Berkely, "Ask the organism."

Growing up in a small mining town in the California desert allowed hours upon hours of time outside, as did family vacations that always involved camping. She has always known intuitively what scientists are now demonstrating in a myriad of ways—she is happier when in contact with nature. In the fall of 2019, she discovered the national campus program called NatureRx and initiated a version at UConn as a way to encourage a deeper connection with nature among UConn students and facilitate research in this area among scholars.

Kinga H. Karlowska
Global Initiatives Coordinator, Global Partnerships & Outreach,
Office of Global Affairs, UConn

Kinga H. Karlowska works as part of the Global Partnerships and Outreach team in the Office of Global Affairs, providing support for special initiatives such as the Norian Armenian Programs, Abrahamic Programs, and more. Previously, Karlowska worked at the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants, building youth programs and delivering essential services for refugee children. After, she aided legislators at the Connecticut General Assembly as a constituent engagement coordinator. Karlowska holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a master's degree in International Relations from UMass Boston. During her education, she studied in France, Poland, and Kosovo, in addition to conducting research in Turkey for her master's thesis.

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Samuel King
Research Associate, Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology

Sam King is an environmental educator, writer, and activist. He serves as Project Manager for the Emmy Award-winning Journey of the Universe film and multimedia project, hosting the Journey of the Universe: 10 Years Later podcast and curating the monthly newsletter. He is also lead mentor for the Yale/Coursera Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in Religions and Ecology.

King received a Master of Arts in Religion and Ecology and a certificate in Educational Leadership and Ministry from Yale Divinity School. He also served as a Teaching Fellow at the Yale School of the Environment. A former Philosophy and Religion teacher at The Hotchkiss School, Sam was a Fulbright Scholar in Sri Lanka, where he taught at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and researched agrarian Buddhism. King is passionate about the power of story in building a just and sustainable future.

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Jessica Larkin-Wells
Farm Manager, UConn Spring Valley Student Farm

Jessica Larkin-Wells manages the Spring Valley Student Farm (SVSF), an educational farm where 11 undergraduate students live and grow produce for UConn's Dining Services. SVSF sprouted in Spring 2010 and has blossomed over the past 12 years into a thriving farm community, deeply rooted in local food systems. Student farmers learn a range of skills while engaged in community-driven, project-based experiential learning. Spring Valley Student Farm aims to be a "living laboratory" where students, faculty, staff, and Storrs-Mansfield community members can come together to learn about the connections between land, food, and people; model efficient, effective regenerative organic farming techniques that yield healthy productive soil, increased farm biodiversity and hundreds of varieties of high quality vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers; and encourage imaginative, innovative, and creative thinking to achieve more sustainable lifestyles.

Larkin-Wells graduated from the SVSF program in 2018 and worked in direct production for several years before returning to work for Dining Services as the SVSF farm manager in July 2021. She draws often on her previous experiences as a farmer, baker, and factory worker and is pleased that her current job requires her to work outdoors and pay attention to plants, people, and seasons. She loves working with students and is endlessly curious about how to be a better farmer, teacher, and friend.

Yehezkel Landau, D.Min.

Consultant, Landau Interfaith

Yehezkel Landau, a dual Israeli-American citizen, is an interfaith educator, leadership trainer, author, and consultant working to improve Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations and promote Israeli-Palestinian peacebuilding for over 40 years. Landau earned a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University, a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Hartford Seminary.

Matthew Larson

Communications Manager, Office of Global Affairs

Matthew Larson joined the UConn Global Affairs' team in May 2018 as a program assistant in Global Partnerships and Outreach and has since become the communications manager for the Office of Global Affairs. He holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from The College of the Holy Cross (2011) in Worcester, MA, and a master's degree in Statecraft and International Affairs from the Institute of World Politics (2017) in Washington, DC. Prior to joining UConn he worked in Washington, DC for Meridian International Center in their External Affairs office, coordinating roundtables and panel discussions convening a cross-section of public, private, and diplomatic audiences, as well as for Bipartisan Policy Center in their Development office. Most recently, he was the Senior Secretary to the Mayor in his hometown of East Hartford, Connecticut.

Beth Lawrence, Ph.D.

**Associate Professor, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment and Center for
Environmental Science & Engineering, UConn**

Beth Lawrence is a plant ecologist interested in the consequences of anthropogenic stressors (eg: invasive plants, nutrient loading, sea-level rise, deicing salts) on community composition and ecosystem function. She primarily works in wetlands, where she examines the consequences of invasion and management activities on community structure, nutrient and carbon cycling. She is particularly interested in how different plant communities influence ecosystem function and how we can manipulate species composition during restoration to promote diverse, functional communities. She is committed to finding sustainable solutions to improve natural resource management. Beth teaches introductory and graduate courses on wetland ecology, as well as a cohort-building class for Environmental Science majors focusing on environmental problem solving.

Lawrence received a BS in Natural Resources from Cornell University in 2001, a MS in Botany and Plant Pathology from Oregon State University in 2005, and completed her Ph.D. in 2011 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Botany Department. She was a post-doctoral researcher at Loyola University Chicago during 2011-12, and was an Assistant Professor at DePaul University from 2012-2015 in the Dept. of Environmental Science & Studies. She joined the faculty at the University of Connecticut in 2016 and holds a joint appointment in Natural Resources & the Environment and the Center for Environmental Science & Engineering.

Stine-Helene Masseboeuf

Assistant Teacher, Center for the Advanced Learning of Mindfulness (CALM)

Stine Helene is an Assistant Teacher of the Advanced Mindfulness-Based Practices (AMBP) 4/8-Week Courses for CALM, and an Associate Teacher Trainer of the 'AMBP Teacher Training Programme'. She is also the Managing Director of CALM, Norway, and is also a Yoga Alliance certified Yoga Teacher. Having received a Masters Certificate in Design from the University of Dundee, Scotland, U.K., she currently works as a Teacher/Occupational Therapy Trainee for adults and seniors within the Higher Education sector in Norway. As a certified Transformational Art Therapist and a professional dance teacher who specializes in Mindful Movement Practice, through CALM, Stine assists with mindfulness-based workshops/courses for children, young people and adults.

Karen McComb

Director of Health Promotion and Community Impact, UConn Student Health and Wellness

Karen McComb joined UConn in August 2019 as the Director of Health Promotion and Community Impact in the Student Health and Wellness department. In her role, she leads a team of health promotion professionals focused on mobilizing the UConn community to cultivate conditions that foster student wellbeing, empower students, and dismantle systems of oppression which impact health. Current initiatives include activating and facilitating UConn's Wellness Coalition, a group of students, staff, and faculty from over 20 UConn departments, schools, and colleges focused on collaborative strategies to create healthy academic spaces and support student behavioral health; and the Innovate Wellness Design Lab, a space where students work through the design-thinking process to innovate solutions to address health and wellness concerns they see on campus. Prior to UConn, McComb served for fifteen years at the University of California Riverside in various student development roles, most recently as the Senior Director of Student Wellness. McComb received her MS in Counseling from San Francisco State University and is currently pursuing her Ed.D. in Higher Education Management at the University of Pennsylvania.

Kathryn Moore, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Art and Art History, UConn

Kathryn Blair Moore received her Ph.D. in art history from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, and has previously taught at Texas State University, the University of Hong Kong, the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Pittsburgh. Her research and teaching span the medieval and Renaissance periods in Europe and the Mediterranean region, with a particular focus on cross-cultural exchange between Christian and Islamic cultures. Her first book, *The Architecture of the Christian Holy Land: Reception from Late Antiquity through the Renaissance* (Cambridge University Press, 2017), received a Prose award in art history / criticism and the Medieval Institute's Otto Gründler Book Prize. With Hasan-Uddin Khan, she is the co-editor of *The Religious Architecture of Islam*, a two-volume study published by Brepols in 2021-22. She is currently writing a monograph on the emergence and development of the concept of the arabesque in a European context. Her research has been supported by grants and fellowships from Harvard University's Villa I Tatti, the American Academy in Rome, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Council of Learned Societies.

Athulya Narayanan

Undergraduate Student, Environmental Studies, UConn

Athulya Narayanan is an undergraduate student at University of Connecticut interested in Environmental Studies. She has been vegan for last 7 years. She is passionate about environmental issues and plans to pursue a career in environmental sustainability.

Eleanor Ouimet, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department Anthropology, UConn

Eleanor Ouimet is an environmental anthropologist and assistant professor of environment and human interactions in the Department of Anthropology at UConn. Her research and teaching are focused on human-environment interactions, including environmental justice, disaster preparedness, community response to natural hazards, green energy, and the effects of climate change. Ouimet's recent journal publications have addressed pedagogical approaches to teaching climate change, the health effects of climate change, anthropological approaches to the study of environmental repair, the influence of anthropocentrism in the social sciences, and facilitating cooperative efforts between social scientists, natural scientists, engineers, and local communities. She is the PI of the DISASTER (Designing Interdisciplinary Science And Strategies To Enhance Resilience) Research team at UConn. In addition to teaching and researching issues pertaining to the environment, she is also involved in research initiatives focused on increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion at the University level, and lead the Microaggression Research Team at UConn. Her publications include, *Culture and Conservation: Beyond Anthropocentrism*, as well as four volumes, including: *The Routledge Handbook of Environmental Anthropology*, *Sustainability: Key Issues*; *Environmental Anthropology: Future Directions*; and *Environmental Anthropology Today*. Here at UConn, Ouimet teaches 'Climate Change and Global Society', 'Peoples and Cultures of the World,' and 'Culture and Conservation' in the Anthropology Department.

Sohyun Park, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, UConn

Sohyun Park is assistant professor of landscape architecture in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at University of Connecticut. She serves as Chair of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) Resilience and Climate Action Track (2020-2022) after four-years of service as co-chair for the Sustainability Track (2016-2020). She is also a Chair of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Ecology and Restoration Professional Practice Network (2019-2022). She is an affiliate faculty member of the Sustainable Global Cities Initiative at UConn Hartford campus, and co-chairs a national multistate research group called NE 1962. Park is a certified SITES AP (#0000001945) and is devoted to the promotion of ecosystem services in cities and landscapes through her scholarship, education, and professional engagement.

Park's research interest includes the pattern, function, and services of urban green spaces and their relevance to environmental sustainability and community resilience. Target sites of interest include various spatial scales ranging from a larger urban region and metropolitan area to a neighborhood and urban block. With her research topics on urbanism, landscape, and ecology, she seeks to understand a unifying theme of "landscape" as a holistic socioecological system. Her work has been supported by the U. S. Department of the Interior National

Park Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, United Nations Development Programme, Korea Ministry of Environment, and other national, regional, and local organizations. She has published numerous peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, book reviews, and translated books. She has given 50 presentations at national and international conferences, including keynote speech at the 2022 International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) World Congress in Korea. Her expertise has been sought out for 37 invited lectures by various individuals and organizations across the U.S. and beyond. Park is the recipient of the 2021 CELA's Faculty Award on Service Learning and the UConn Provost's Emerging Faculty Award for Excellence in Community Engaged Scholarship

Zareen Reza

Undergraduate Student, Department of Environmental Studies, UConn

Zareen Reza is a fourth-year undergraduate student at the University of Connecticut majoring in environmental studies with a minor in writing. She is passionate about environmental justice and equity. She recently interned at Women's Earth Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to training, supporting, and funding women leaders in the environmental field worldwide. Currently, she is creating an environmental justice leadership program with Professor Phoebe Godfrey and other students.

Anji Seth, Ph.D.

Professor & Interim Head, Department of Geography, UConn

Anji Seth earned a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Michigan with an Advanced Study Fellowship at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). Her research centers on understanding regional processes within the context of global climate: from the role of vegetation, to precipitation extremes during El Nino events, to understanding how monsoon systems change in warmer climates. Much of this research employs numerical climate models to examine past, present and future climates. Seth has recently led an assessment of climate change for the state of Connecticut, and we're currently examining extreme heat events in past and future climates. She is the Chair of the UConn Atmospheric Sciences Group, and co-founder of UConn@COP.

Kristina Stevens, LCSW

Director of Mental Health, Student Health and Wellness, UConn

Kristina Stevens is the Director of Mental Health with Student Health and Wellness. She brings over 30 years of experience in the field of mental health with a focus on promoting optimal health and wellbeing for children, youth and families. Stevens started her work in the non-profit sector, then spent over 16 years in various leadership roles with the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) and worked for the Annie E. Casey Foundation/Casey Family Services. Stevens has also served as Adjunct Faculty both at Smith College and Post University where she had the opportunity to teach, mentor and support undergraduate and graduate students as they traversed the challenges of balancing school, work and life.

Collectively, through these various roles, Stevens has benefitted from direct service and system level roles. She has developed and implemented integrated systems to address the whole person and has led system-level, comprehensive reform efforts resulting in actionable, sustainable solutions. Throughout her career, she has had the opportunity to influence systems by partnering with leadership teams, key stakeholders and constituents, keeping children, youth and families at the center of her work and setting a path forward through strategic planning, implementation, design and delivery.

Ngozi Taffe, Ph.D.

Associate Vice President for Global Affairs, UConn

Ngozi Taffe was appointed Associate Vice President for Global Affairs on July 1, 2022. Prior to this role, she served as the Assistant Vice President for Global Affairs where her responsibilities included the oversight and development of Experiential Global Learning Programs, Risk, and Program assessment; and before that, she served as the Director of UConn Information Technology Services' Project Management Office (PMO). Taffe is a three-time alumna of UConn, where she earned a BS in Management Information Systems, an MBA, and studied Global Business Strategy in Lyon, France. Taffe also earned a Ph.D. in Learning, Leadership and Education Policy at the Neag School of Education. Her research focuses on factors that enable persistence among minority groups. She believes as a global society, our greatest assets are in the richness and diversity of our collective experiences, which is why she encourages people to find and use their voice in spaces where voices are muted.

Before returning to UConn in 2014, she spent 18 years of her career working for United Technologies Corporation (Raytheon Technologies) and Computer Sciences Corporation in positions of increased responsibility, including working on commercial and military projects, global project implementations with various facilities overseas.

U Dhammajīva Mahā Thero

Abbot, Chief Preceptor and Meditation Master of Nissarana Vanaya Monastery

Founder, Sati Pasala Foundation

Venerable U Dhammajīva Mahā Thero is the Abbot, Chief Preceptor & Meditation Master of Nissarana Vanaya Monastery and Founder of, Sati Pasala Foundation in Sri Lanka. Venerable Uda Eriyagama Dhammajīva Mahā Thero is a revered present-day teacher and is the fourth Abbott and Chief Preceptor of Mitirigala Nissarana Vanaya. He is highly respected for his widely encompassing knowledge of the various meditation techniques, including Samatha as well as the Burmese Vipassanā methods.

Mary Evelyn Tucker, Ph.D.

Co-founder, Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology

Senior Lecturer and Senior Research Scholar, School of the Environment, Divinity School, and Religious Studies Department, Yale University;

Mary Evelyn Tucker is a Senior Lecturer and Research Scholar at Yale in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, the Divinity School, and the Department of Religious Studies. She directs the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale with her husband, John Grim. She received an Inspiring Yale Teaching Award in 2015.

She earned her Ph.D. from Columbia University in Asian Religions. Since 1997 she has been a Research Associate at the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard and has published five volumes on Confucianism. She also served on the International Earth Charter Drafting Committee.

Her concern for the growing environmental crisis, especially in Asia, led her to organize with Grim a series of ten conferences on World Religions and Ecology at Harvard (1995-1998). They were series editors for the ten volumes from the conferences. After these conferences she and Grim founded the Forum on Religion and Ecology. They wrote *Ecology and Religion* (Island Press, 2014) and with Willis Jenkins they edited the *Routledge Handbook on Religion and Ecology* (2016). They also are series advisors for the *Ecology and Justice Series* at Orbis Books.

Tucker and Grim studied with Thomas Berry and worked closely with him for 30 years. Tucker edited Berry's books and with Grim she wrote *Thomas Berry: A Biography* (Columbia, 2019).

Tucker created a multi-media project with Brian Thomas Swimme and John Grim called "Journey of the Universe", which includes an Emmy award-winning film, a book from Yale (2011), *Journey Conversations*, and online classes.

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Sean Vasington, PLA, ASLA
Director and University Landscape Architect,
University Planning, Design, & Construction, UConn

Sean Vasington is the University Landscape Architect and Director of Site Planning in the Office of University Planning, Design and Construction at UConn. Sean is a steward of the environment and is primarily responsible for the immediate and long-range planning, design, and construction of exterior initiatives and improvements related to the University's capital program.

Sean is a proud alum of UConn and grew up in southeastern Connecticut. He completed his landscape architectural studies at UConn in 1999 and received his Bachelor of Science degree in 2000. He holds professional landscape architectural registration in Connecticut and is certified by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB). Prior to returning to UConn in 2014, Sean was a Principal with CRJA-IBI Group - a renowned landscape architectural and site planning practice founded by Carol R. Johnson, a pioneer in the profession.

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Daniel Weiner, Ph.D.
Vice President for Global Affairs and
Professor, Department of Geography, UConn

Daniel Weiner, Ph.D., joined the University of Connecticut (UConn) in 2012 as Vice Provost for Global Affairs and Professor of Geography. In February 2016, he was promoted to Vice President. Prior to joining UConn, Weiner spent four years as Executive Director of the Center for International Studies at Ohio University and eleven years

as Director of the Office of International Programs at West Virginia University. He earned a B.A. in 1979, an M.A. in 1981 and a Ph.D. in 1986, all in Geography at Clark University.

In his role as Vice President, Weiner serves as the University's Senior International Officer (SIO) and leads the UConn Office of Global Affairs. With more than two decades leading as a public research university SIO, he is one of the longest serving SIO's in the country. Weiner serves as Chair of the Global Business Council of the Metro-Hartford Alliance, as well as on the Board of Directors of the World Affairs Council of Connecticut, for which he is a former President.

Weiner is a development geographer with area studies expertise in Eastern/Southern Africa, Appalachia, and the Middle East/North Africa. He is a specialist in the theory and practice of participatory geographic information systems (GIS). His research areas include agricultural geography, climate and society, energy, GIS and society, land reform and political ecology. He has received 15 externally funded grants totaling over \$2.5 million, published three books, 30 journal articles and 29 book chapters. Weiner lived in Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe for almost three years during the 1980s.

Dimitris Xygalatas, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department Anthropology, UConn

Dimitris Xygalatas interests include ritual, sports, cooperation, the interaction between cognition and culture, and the impact of cultural practices on psychophysiological wellbeing. His research combines laboratory and field methods to study human interaction in real-life settings. He has conducted several years of fieldwork in Southern Europe and Mauritius. Before coming to UConn, he held positions at the universities of Princeton, Aarhus, and Masaryk, where he served as Director of the Laboratory for the Experimental Research of Religion (LEVYNA). At UConn, he directs the Experimental Anthropology Lab, which develops methods and technologies for quantifying behavior in real-life settings. He is affiliated with the Cognitive Science Program, the Connecticut Institute for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences, the Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy.

Juan Pablo Yepes

Undergraduate Student, Department of Sociology, UConn

JP Yepes Tobon is a Sociology Undergraduate from UConn and a student of Professor Phoebe Godfrey. He is involved in the Arctic Refuge Defense Campaign, and is studying to pursue cultural/mental health activism and intersectional environmentalism.

