



2021 Annual Report

A Year of Progress



confluence **LAB**

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT



6
STUDENT
INTERNS



2
SCIENTIFIC
PUBLICATIONS



1
RESIDENT ARTIST
POSITION CREATED



4
PHD STUDENTS
SUPPORTED



6
PUBLIC
PRESENTATIONS



1
FACULTY POSITION
CREATED

2021 was a year of growth and momentum for the Confluence Lab. While we missed gathering in person, we took exciting steps to expand the Confluence team and develop our suite of projects. We recruited the talented Leah Hampton as our In-residence Fellow; she will write the narrative backbone of our Andrew W. Mellon Foundation-funded project, a Pacific Northwest Climate Justice Atlas. We've added new members to our 113-person listserv and to our website, which now features profile essays on Leah as well as Environmental Science PhD candidate Kayla Bordelon, whose work has been instrumental to the Lab. For our National Science Foundation-Advancing Informal STEM Learning project, Kayla took the lead on running a dozen workshops across the state, reaching over 240 participants. To accommodate our growing numbers, the Confluence Lab now occupies a larger space in the IRIC building: room 310. Given the flexibility and range of our disciplinary interests and our transdisciplinary projects, a "flex lab" seems like the ideal home for us. Meanwhile, Teresa left the University of Idaho to become an Associate Professor in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of New Hampshire and a Climate Change Fellow at the Harvard Divinity School. She will continue co-directing the Lab and working on projects, including with the support of a PhD student, who will directly work with the Climate Justice Atlas, and PhD student Kristin Green, who is working on tribal mapping in federal management land use planning. We continue to hone our focus on addressing environmental issues such as wildland fire collaboratively, in and with rural communities, and now have projects based in multiple regions. The University of Idaho recognized us in spring 2021 with an Excellence Award in Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Efforts.



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PROJECT UPDATES

1. Andrew W. Mellon Foundation: Just Futures Institute

Lab members began work on “Stories of Fire: A Pacific Northwest Climate Justice Atlas,” a three-year project that is part of the Pacific Northwest Just Futures Institute for Racial and Climate Justice funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Our focus in the first phase of the Atlas is a series of multi-sensory workshops held in at least three communities in spring and summer 2022 that invite participants to reflect on and “map” their experiences of wildfire. We are also building toolkits and resources, available online later in 2022, to expand our reach to anyone who cannot participate in the in-person workshops and to prepare for the second phase of our project: a digital atlas.



2. NSF: Stories of Fire

Our “Stories of Fire: Integrated Learning Through Participatory Narratives” project collaborated with the McCall Outdoor Science School, Ponderosa State Park, Craters of the Moon National Monument, the Sawtooth Interpretive Center, and Celebration Park to both deliver programs and train interpreters in storytelling methods in fire programming. We are analyzing data and writing articles as we wrap up this pilot project, and we plan to apply for the larger Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) grant in January of 2023.

3. Nature and Nuance of Climate Change Perceptions

Members of the Nature and Nuance of Climate Change Perceptions project team—Kristin Haltinner, Dilshani Sarathchandra, and Jennifer Ladino—co-authored an article based on their research: “Feeling Skeptical: Worry, Dread, and Support for Environmental Policy Among Climate Change Skeptics” *Emotion, Space, and Society* 39 (2021). Kristin and Dilshani have published an additional six articles with related content as part of their ongoing collaboration. The Confluence Lab is partnering with them on new initiatives in 2022, including an NSF-Decision, Risk and Management Sciences grant proposal (PI: Haltinner) for interdisciplinary research on the narrative, emotional, and media variables that cause climate skeptics to change their beliefs about climate change.

4. CDIL Digital Scholarship Collaborations

The Lab partnered with the Center for Digital Inquiry and Learning (CDIL) to support two projects. “Storying Extinction: Responding to the Loss of North Idaho’s Mountain Caribou,” a digital humanities project spearheaded by University of Idaho graduate students Jack Kredell and Chris Lamb, was officially released by CDIL on February 1, 2022. Supported by CDIL’s Graduate Student Fellowships, Jack and Chris produced a digital “deep map” comprised of oral histories, trail camera footage, nonfiction essays, and historical documents about mountain caribou. Jack, Chris, and CDIL director Devin Becker will co-author an analysis of the project and its methodology for publication later this year. Jack and Chris, along with English lecturer Michael Decker, are currently at work on a new geospatial digital humanities project, also in partnership with the CDIL. The project, “Keeping Watch,” tracks shifting environmental perspectives through Idaho’s fire lookouts. Jack is the first English MA student to transition into an ENVIS PhD; stay tuned for a member profile on our website.



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2021 EVENTS

- Lab co-directors gave virtual presentations about interdisciplinary collaboration, publicly-engaged research, and the Lab's projects at the ASLE Conference and at two events hosted by UCLA's Laboratory for Environmental Narrative Strategies.
- The Lab partnered with JAMM to host journalist and UCLA professor Jon Christensen to screen and discuss his award-winning film, *The New West and the Politics of the Environment*, on March 10, 2021. Professor Christensen also visited an English class and held a conversation with JAMM students about environmental journalism.
- The Lab and the UI Sustainability Center co-hosted a Climate Stories Workshop (<https://www.climatestoriesproject.org/>) on April 20, 2021, as part of UI's Earth Week celebrations.
- Kayla Bordelon and Jenn Ladino held a second community conversation in their IHC-sponsored series, "Our Changing Climate: Finding Common Ground Through Climate Fiction." The event in McCall, Idaho, in August, drew about two dozen people. Their next events will be in Grangeville and Lewiston.
- Atlas team members led two workshops: "What is an Atlas?" and "What is Justice Mapping?" The justice mapping event was part of UI's GIS Day on November 17.



2022 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Narrative Science Workshop, Colorado College, February 17
- Emotions and Climate Communication, "Recharge!" NASA-Earth to Sky Network, Boise, February 17
- Renfrew Colloquium, April 26: Stories of Fire: The Confluence Lab and Narrative Science Communication
- The icarus Quartet will visit the UI to play a concert of new chamber music for 2 pianists and 2 percussionists at the Haddock Recital Hall on April 30 at 1pm. The program will include the first 3 parts of "Wilderness Suite:" a music and film exploration of human-environmental change over time in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness (Lab members: Ruby Fulton and Ben James).
- Erin James' book *Narrative in the Anthropocene*, which features a chapter on Confluence Lab work, is forthcoming in April (Ohio State University Press).

LEARN MORE

- Watch "Understanding Wilderness: Confluence Lab" - [ogol_bme=erutaef&YGSrbjYUApy=v?hctaw/moc.ebutuoy.www//:sptth](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erutaef&YGSrbjYUApy=v?hctaw/moc.ebutuoy.www//:sptth)
- Listen to the Confluence Lab on Vandal Theory - <https://www.uidaho.edu/news/the-vandal-theory#cohn>
- Join our listserv - confluence@uidaho.edu

