

The background of the entire page is a dark, textured aerial photograph of Chicago. Overlaid on the left and center is a grid of small, colorful squares in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue, resembling a map or data visualization. On the right side, a large, dark, stylized profile of a person's head is visible, facing left. The title text is in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.

# CEGU YEAR ONE

**Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization  
Division of Social Sciences, The University of Chicago**





Closing Roundtable of the Inaugural CEGU Conference

I am very pleased to share with you the first annual report from the Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization. This report offers a snapshot of our activities in the academic year 2022–23, including a wide range of faculty research, course offerings, and public events as well as a renovated undergraduate major and a new doctoral certificate. Special thanks to Neil Brenner, the inaugural Chair of CEGU, for his brilliant leadership in galvanizing our community.

CEGU is a new unit at The University of Chicago consisting of more than forty affiliated faculty across the Social Sciences and Humanities. We stand united in our common concern with the twin crises of biodiversity and climate change. CEGU's lecture series, graduate colloquium, and annual conference offer a shared space to articulate innovative approaches to the planetary emergency. A key priority for the CEGU community in the coming year will be to formulate a joint research agenda that recognizes the interconnected nature of the many challenge before us, including in particular, decarbonization, biodiversity, and environmental justice.

—Fredrik Albritton Jonsson, Interim Chair

**Neil Brenner**  
Chair (on sabbatical 2023–24)

**Fredrik Albritton Jonsson**  
Interim Chair 2023–24

**Sabina Shaikh**  
Director of Academic Programs  
Director of Undergraduate  
Studies

**Brisa Aschebrook-Kilfoy**  
**Alexander Arroyo**  
**Niall Atkinson**  
**Grga Basic**  
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**Luis Bettencourt**  
**Evan Carver**  
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**Brodwyn Fischer**  
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**Christopher Kindell**  
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**Joseph P. Masco**  
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**Sarah Newman**  
**William Nickell**  
**Emily Lynn Osborn**  
**Esteban Rossi-Hansberg**  
**Victoria Saramago**  
**Jennifer Scappettone**  
**Robert Vargas**  
**Lisa Wedeen**

**Derick Anderson**  
Instructional Assistant 2023–24

**Bek Erl**  
Instructional Assistant 2023–24

**Nina Olney**  
Graduate Research Mentor  
Instructional Assistant 2022–23

**Xixi Jiang**  
Instructional Assistant 2022–23

FACULTY

ABOUT CEGU

Established in June 2022, the Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization (CEGU) is the culmination of a long-standing collaboration between the Program on the Global Environment (PGE), the Committee on Geographical Sciences (CGS), and many other faculty across the social sciences and humanities at the University of Chicago whose research and teaching address the societal and spatial dimensions of climate change, biodiversity loss, and other kinds of environmental transformation.

CEGU builds upon the University’s legacies of excellence in geographical studies while providing a new divisional and inter-divisional platform for scholarship, teaching, and public events related to environment and society across time and space. With over 40 faculty affiliates drawn primarily from the Division of Social Sciences and the Division of Humanities, CEGU seeks to investigate and respond to the environmental challenges of our time not only by advancing climate change awareness, but by actively centering contemporary planetary environmental emergencies in all aspects of social research and humanistic inquiry.

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Indian Ridge Marsh; photo by ENST student Jonathan Garcia



## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS



Starting in 2022–23, the Environmental and Urban Studies and Geography undergraduate majors were integrated, updated and expanded to reflect the rapid growth of student interest in socio-environmental studies and the CEGU faculty’s ambitious pedagogical vision. The new CEGU major, launched in Autumn 2023, interrogates the limits of inherited approaches to studying socio-environmental transformation, and explores the prospects for developing new frameworks and methods for the critical analysis of such issues. Through a historically grounded, contextually embedded engagement with diverse theoretical frameworks used in the social sciences and humanities, CEGU’s pedagogy attunes students to the contentious nature of knowledge on society and environment across time and space and prepares students not only to understand the intensifying environmental emergencies that are rupturing social life across the planet, but to shape societal responses to the latter through scholarship, practice, and community engagement.

The updated undergraduate curriculum prepares students to understand and confront the wide-ranging societal, historical, and spatial dimensions of contemporary planetary environmental crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and other forms of large-scale socio-environmental transformation. Such issues are explored in diverse spaces, including cities and metropolitan regions; zones of extraction, agriculture, energy production and waste; dispersed settlement spaces and village ecologies; rangeland, forest and jungle landscapes; remote wildlands; and coastlines, rivers, watersheds, and oceans. The curriculum emphasizes a plurality of theoretical approaches to the histories and geographies of socio-environmental transformation, underscoring the contested character of environmental knowledge in a polarized and turbulent world order.

The CEGU major provides students with strong foundations in spatialized and historical approaches to environmental studies, with more specialized thematic tracks available in several fields, including urban environmental studies, energy histories and geographies, and environmental humanities. Course offerings are also available in, among other fields, environmental policy and economics; environmental and urban design; spatial and environmental media; agrarian environments and agro-food systems; environment and public health; and environmental justice, activism, and community engagement. Through engagement with these fields of inquiry, students explore the wide-ranging social, historical and spatial transformations that have produced the environmental emergencies of our time. Graduates of the CEGU undergraduate major will be well-equipped to conduct advanced research on socio-environmental

# CEGU MAJOR & MINOR

## SAMPLE CEGU COURSES

processes, transformations, and crises across time and space, and to engage in diverse fields of environmental practice. The curriculum combines scholarly inquiry, methodological training, experiential learning, and community engagement to prepare students to contribute to—and transform—the collective process of forging more equitable, livable, and hopeful planetary futures.

### CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT, AND SOCIETY

CEGU 20001 Christopher Kindell  
Autumn 2023

### GENEALOGIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZING AND ACTIVISM

CEGU 21501 Mary Beth Pudup  
Autumn 2023

### URBAN DESIGN WITH NATURE

CEGU 27155 Emily Talen & Sabina Shaikh  
Autumn 2023

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE

CEGU 26260 Raymond Lodato  
Winter 2023

### INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL SPATIAL MEDIA: VISUALIZING URBAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND PLANETARY CHANGE

CEGU 23517 Alexander Arroyo & Grga Bašić  
Spring 2023



SEPTEMBER TERM 2023

Led by Evan Carver

BERLIN: CONFLICT, COMMUNITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY



What makes a city? Who decides how a city grows and changes, and what criteria do they use—should it be beautiful, efficient, sustainable, open, just? How do economic systems and political ideologies shape urban development? What is the “right to the city,” and what does it mean for city-dwellers to exercise it? These are just some of the questions explored in the course Berlin: Conflict, Community, and Sustainability. For three weeks, 19 students engaged with critical readings about memorialization, adaptation, and representation, while also visiting sites where those dynamics are in debate and meeting with local activists and practitioners involved in reshaping Berlin for the 21st century. While students saw many of the famous tourist sites, our attention was directed more at railyards reclaimed as green spaces, cohousing cooperatives engaged with regenerative urban agriculture, comparatively abstract memorials (like sculptures) and comparatively literal memorials (like bombed-out buildings frozen in their state of destruction), along with more everyday examples of city-building and resistance, like graffiti, guerilla gardening, and pop-up karaoke parties. The methodological focus of the trip was on filmmaking and video. Students learned the basics of cinematography and editing, conducted close “readings” of numerous Berlin films, met with local filmmakers, and used all this knowledge to produce their own films about an urban issue of their choice. Study abroad is widely understood as “high-impact” pedagogy; with this program, students learned important and transferable things about cities they couldn’t have learned in the cultural and intellectual environment of campus, as well as gaining “hard” skills of communication and analysis.

REMAKING THE PRAIRIE: THE CULTURAL POLITICS OF ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

This September Term course is situated in the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, a restored prairie on the former site of the WWII era Joliet Army Ammunition Plant, for a hands on exploration of the environmental and cultural challenges of ecological restoration. The Midewin is posed as an envi fronmental humanities problem, asking the questions: What does it mean to restore a landscape or an ecosystem? What values or biases are in place in ecological restoration and how do we overcome them? Students meet with Forest Service employees, participate in environmental restoration work, collect data for ecological studies, and learn more about the complicated history of the prairie and efforts to restore it. Analysis of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and ecological restoration more broadly will be done from an interdisciplinary lens that takes seriously the sometimes-competing stakes of indigeneity, agriculture, settler colonialism, ecology, history, militarism, and recreation, among others.

RIDING ABOUT THE SOUTH SIDE

This course is based on bicycling through the South Side neighborhoods surrounding The University of Chicago. Although it integrates “traditional” texts, its primary inputs come from the experiences of riding and dialogue with South Siders from all walks of life—seeing things at street level and speaking with people who are committed to living in places that too often have been abandoned by others. The premise in this class is that our scholarly work should begin with experience in that world, with direct contact and in conversation. Some of the themes explored—always on bikes, and always in conversation with local activists, organizers, and residents—are land rights and exploitation, architecture, town planning, placemaking, urban farming and ecology, sustainability, grass roots organization, labor rights, immigration, social work, and street art.

Led by Jessica Landau



Led by William Nickell





# CALUMET QUARTER

Offered in collaboration with Chicago Studies, the Calumet Quarter is an immersive, experience-based study focused on the ecological, geographical and societal implications of historical land use in the Calumet Region of Chicago and beyond. The region, which extends from the southeast side of Chicago along Lake Michigan into Indiana and southwestern Michigan, is home to rich biodiverse ecosystems including northern boreal forest, wetlands, dune, savanna and prairie. Human activity and industry have reshaped the region over centuries, playing a pivotal role in Chicago’s historical economy but leaving a legacy of neglect, pollution and environmental justice concerns. Today, community-led action and conservation policy works to restore the area for local economic development and natural area restoration.

Calumet Quarter 2024 will explore “the power of place.” Through a concatenation of cultural practices, social relations and economic processes—all within the indomitable crucible of nature—people don’t just create places, they produce vastly different sorts of places: urban and rural, towns, cities, neighborhoods and villages and their myriad interconnections. This rich geographical tapestry is reason enough for the juggernaut of global tourism.

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND URBAN STUDIES (ENST) BA SYMPOSIUM, SPRING 2023

Graduating Environmental and Urban Studies (ENST) majors presented their BA Thesis and Capstone research during a full day of events at 1155 E. 60th St. Thesis presentations were organized into four separate panel discussion moderated by CEGU faculty, while Capstone projects were shared in poster and video sessions between panels.

## Thesis Presentations by

Noelle Suh, Micah Wilcox, Isadora Kron, Alison Oh, Alexandra Takoudis, Selin Oh, Laura Gersony, Zoë Saldinger, Joe Geniesse, and Meghan Hendrix.

## Capstone Videos by

Gavin Atack, Julie Jaipati, Anna McCormack, Silvana Montagu, Allen Park, Sarah Paton, Losha Schreifels, and Nuhamin Tekie.

## Capstone Posters by

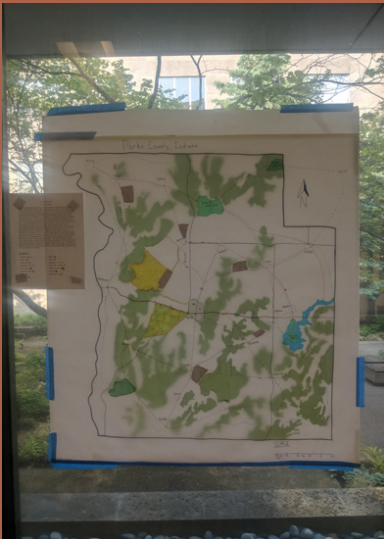
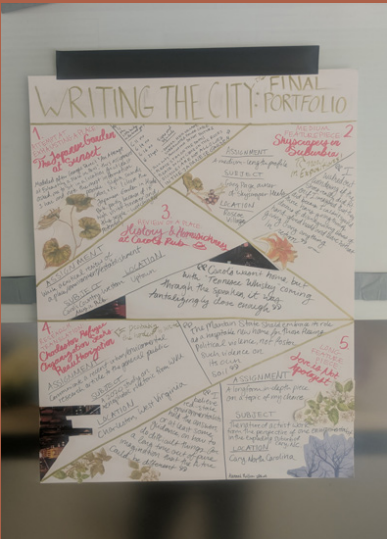
Isabella Bonito, Hannah Brody, Ryelle Browning, Bertrand Chu, Henry Davis, Charlie Ewell, Noel Garcia, Julian Green, Matt Guyton, Rory Harkleroad, Nicole Helou, Olivia Krylov, Griffin Seyfried, Jacob Sher, Mark Sidentopf, Beth Spencer, Alene Taylor, and Hannah Wilson-Black.

# UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Thanks to a generous gift from the Calvin and Freda Redekop family, CEGU offers financial support for undergraduate research that engages with CEGU themes, including socio-environmental studies, urban environmental studies, energy histories and geographies, environmental humanities, and more. Grants can be used to cover field work related expenses including travel costs, lodging expenses, access to archival or digital materials, and other research-related expenses. University of Chicago undergraduate students across all disciplines can apply for funding up to \$2,500 per person. In 2022–23, we also began funding conference travel for ENST/CEGU students and awarding BA Thesis and BA Capstone prizes annually at our Undergraduate Research Symposium.

## 2022–23 AWARDS

Undergraduate Research Grants	Shant Armenian Nate Drew Jonathan Garcia Casey Mathur Alyssa Mendez Ellen Richmond
BA Thesis Prize —And Honorable Mention	Zoë Saldinger Ana Gonzalez
BA Capstone Prize	Jacob Sher
Conference Travel Funding	Stella Bennett Ana Gonzalez





EXPOSITIONS MAGAZINE

Student Magazine

Expositions Magazine was founded in 2021 by students studying urban journalism with CEGU Assistant Instructional Professor Evan Carver. As a program of CEGU, Expositions aims to highlight environmental and urban scholarship through a wide range of styles and genres, with a distinct focus on creativity and boldness in both prose and visual art.



ENVIRONMENTAL FRONTIERS CAMPUS

Environmental Frontiers Campus, or EFCampus, is a unique experiential learning program that creates student-faculty research opportunities focused on the intersection of environmental sustainability and urbanization. The program supports teams of undergraduate research assistants who analyze campus data, operational systems, and community behaviors to identify actionable recommendations that advance the University’s sustainability goals. All projects are aligned with the University’s larger sustainability plan, and are mentored by University faculty and staff from Facilities Services. The student teams provide UChicago staff with rigorous quantitative analyses and evidence to prioritize opportunities to better manage and conserve energy, water, and other natural resources, while reducing pollution.

Environmental Frontiers is a partnership between the Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation, the Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization (CEGU), the Center for Robust Decision-making on Climate and Energy Policy (RDCEP), and Facilities Services’ Office of Sustainability, at The University of Chicago.

Student Research Group



The Doctoral Certificate in Environment, Geography and Urbanization is intended to support advanced research, build intellectual community, and facilitate scholarly collaboration among doctoral students and faculty working in diverse fields of environmental social science and environmental humanities. Grounded in the regular meetings of the Environmental Studies Colloquium as well as specialized doctoral coursework in environmental social science and environmental humanities, the CEGU Doctoral Certificate aims to contribute to the further development of innovative, interdisciplinary doctoral research in these areas.

The CEGU Doctoral Certificate is open to all full-time Ph.D. students in the Division of Social Sciences and the Division of Humanities at the University of Chicago. Students pursuing a Ph.D. in other Divisions or Schools at the University may also petition to pursue the certificate if they can demonstrate that the relevant requirements may be completed in conjunction with their program of doctoral study.

The long-running Environmental Studies Workshop focuses on local, regional, global, and planetary systems as they relate to human history, religion and ethics, law and policy, economic development, political economy, the built environment, urban design, art and film, and resource management. The workshop brings critical, cross-disciplinary, and interdisciplinary inquiry to contemporary environmental problems within academia. The full schedule of 2022–23 Environmental Studies Workshops can be found in the Events section of this report.

Starting in 2023–24, the Environmental Studies Workshop will become the CEGU Colloquium, and will serve as an integral component of the new Doctoral Certificate in Environment, Geography and Urbanization. Students pursuing the CEGU Doctoral Certificate will be required to present at the Colloquium at least once during their time at UChicago, and will be expected to be in regular attendance on an ongoing basis.

2023–24 Director of  
Doctoral Studies

Gary Herrigel

2023–24 Student  
Coordinators

Carmine Morrow  
Sofia Butnaru

## DOCTORAL CERTIFICATE

## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES WORKSHOP // CEGU COLLOQUIUM

## PH.D. RESEARCH

Starting in 2022–23, CEGU also offers funding awards for Ph.D. research projects engaged with CEGU themes, including socio-environmental studies, urban environmental studies, energy histories and geographies, environmental humanities, and more. University of Chicago Ph.D. students across all disciplines can apply for funding up to \$5,000 per person.

Grants can be used to cover field work related expenses including travel costs, lodging expenses, access to archival or digital materials, and other research-related expenses. Preference is given to students who are pursuing the CEGU Doctoral Certificate.

### 2022–23 FUNDING AWARDS

Ian Cipperly

“Multivalent Approaches to the Anthropocene: Finding Answers in the Memefication of Sacred Aesthetics”

Zachary Klamann

“Power Crisis: The Roots of South Africa’s Electricity and Democratic Crises”

Margot Lurie

“The Diffusion of State Power: Rural Electrification in the United States”

Reed McConnell

“The Toxic Sea: Imagining Environmental Futures in Late Industrial California”

Maureen McCord

“The Developmental State and the Transformation of Bombay, c.1665–1785”

Sachaet Pandey

“Tremors of the Anthropocene: Hydroelectric Reason and the Industrialization of Modern India”

Camilo Ruiz Tassinari

“Mexican Light and Power: The Political Economy of Electricity in 20th Century Mexico“

Joshua Silver

“Salmon Fishing in Chicago”

Ricardo Soler Rubio

“Mineral Extractivism in Latin America: Aesthetic Legacies of Colonial Violence”

Alaina Wibberly

“Cartographies of Capture: From Extraction to Surveillance in the Sonoran Borderlands”



Scarcity Book Event with Fredrik Albritton Jonsson, Carl Wennerlind, and Dipesh Chakrabarty



## EVENTS





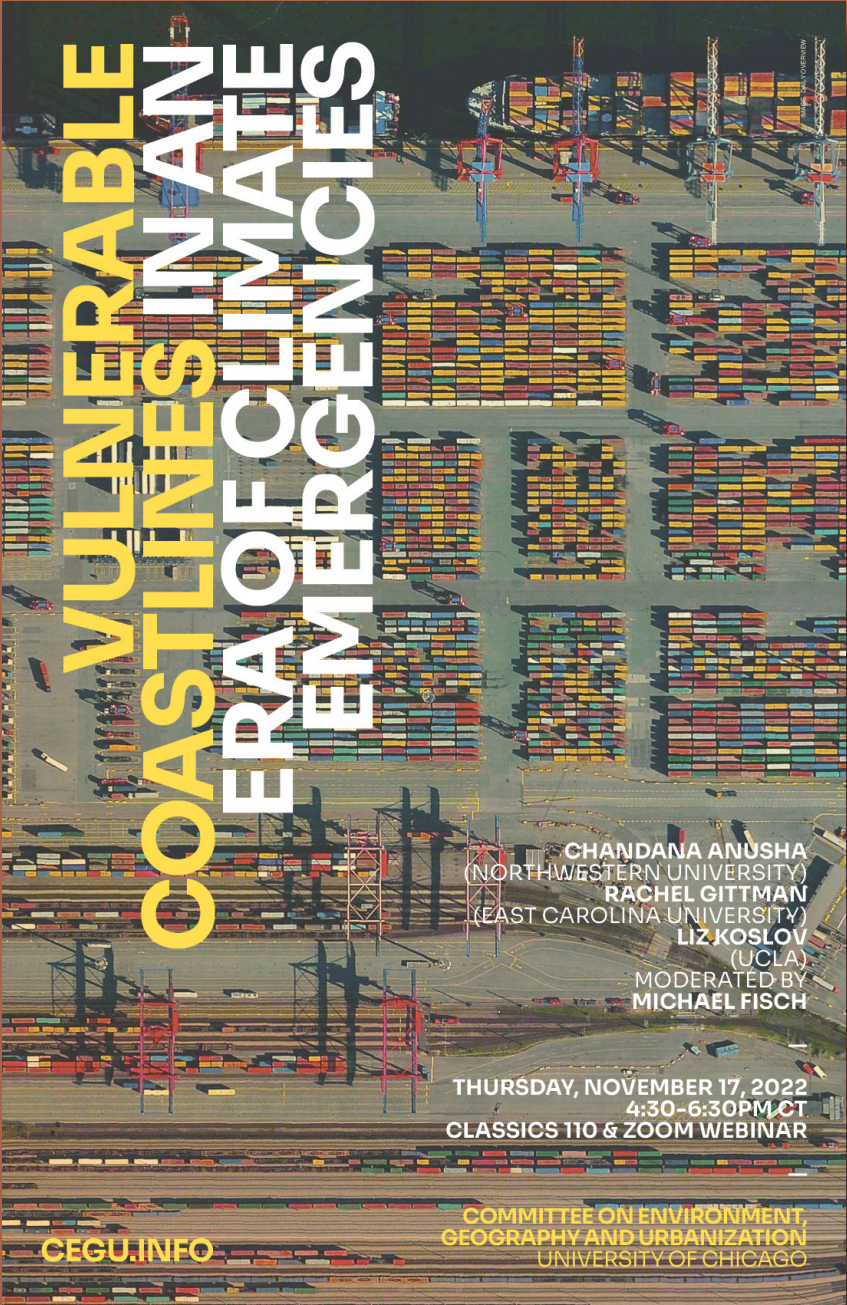
## CONTEMPORARY ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Following the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), UN secretary-general António Guterres declared that the earth “is on a fast track to climate disaster.” In order to avoid “tipping points that could lead to cascading and irreversible climate impacts,” secretary-general Guterres advocated an accelerated shift to renewable energy sources and a rapid downscaling of fossil fuel production and consumption. However, even as catastrophic floods, storms, heatwaves and fires proliferate across the planet, accompanied by devastating human suffering, population displacement, landscape destruction, and infrastructure damage, the fossil fuel industry remains globally dominant. While some governments seek to accelerate the transition to renewable energy and more sustainable social arrangements, many powerful states continue to subsidize fossil fuels and to grant permits for their continued exploration and extraction. Amidst these contradictory tendencies, climate activists and citizens around the world continue to develop strategies to protest the status quo, to pressure governments to limit or ban CO2-emitting machines, and to repair the massive social and environmental damage induced during the “long fossil boom” of the last 150 years.

Against the background of these intense transformations, crises and struggles, this panel of CEGU faculty considers the contribution of social science and humanities research to our ability to understand—and to shape—emergent environmental conditions, from the local to the planetary scales. The panel brings together scholars from diverse disciplinary locations—archeology, anthropology, economics, English, creative writing, geography, political ecology, philosophy, and public policy—to dialogue and debate about contemporary climate emergencies, their historical genealogies, their uneven geographies, their emergent dynamics, and their future implications. This event represents the first in a year-long series of discussions organized by CEGU to support research, teaching, and public dialogue about the social, historical, spatial and (geo)political dimensions of contemporary environmental transformations and crises.

- 
- CEGU Event
- 
- October 20, 2022  
SSRB Tea Room
- 
- Alexander Arroyo,  
Sarah Fredericks,  
Amir Jina,  
Sarah Newman, and  
Jennifer Scappettone,  
The University of Chicago
- Moderated by  
Sabina Shaikh
-





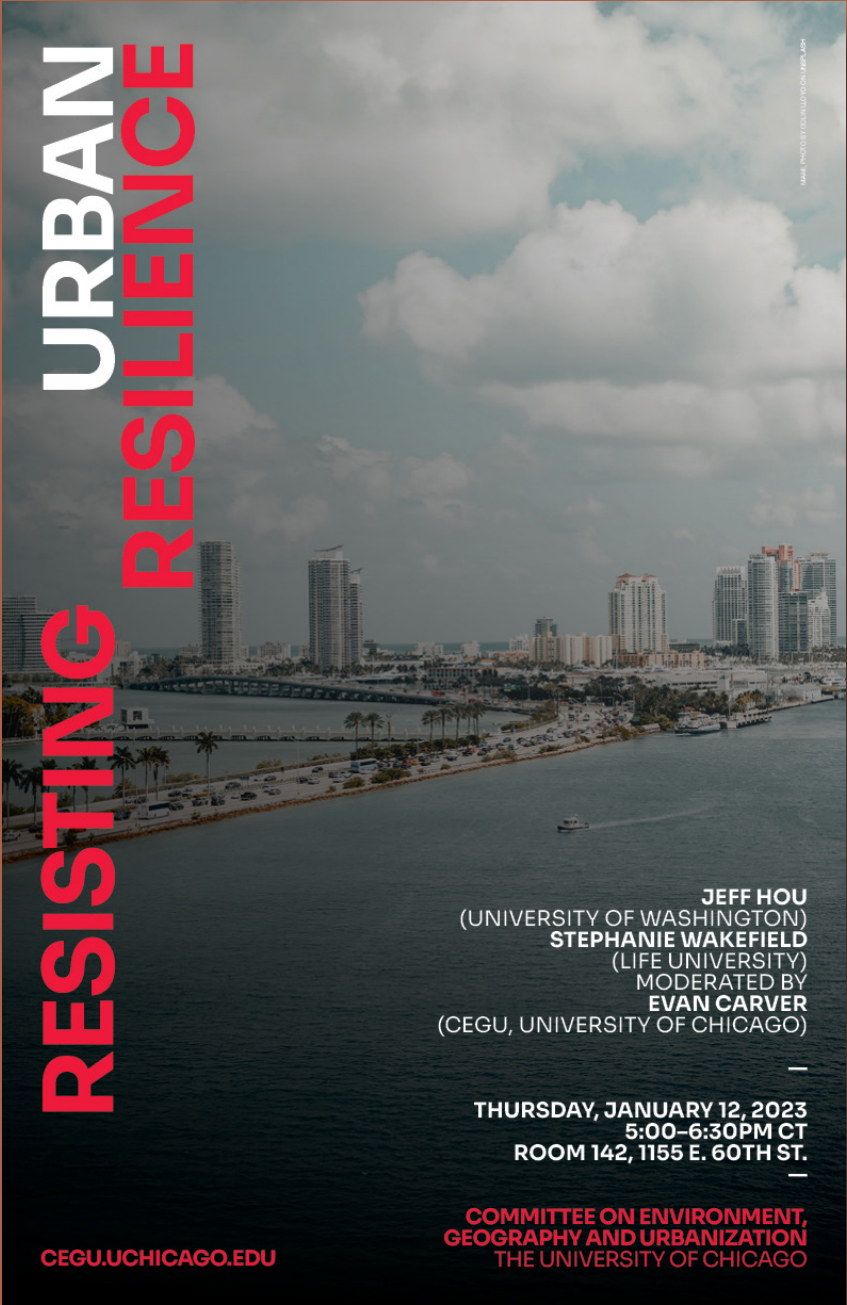
## VULNERABLE COASTLINES IN AN ERA OF CLIMATE EMERGENCIES

Climate change is dramatically transforming the planet’s coastal terrains, rendering densely settled communities, vibrant ecosystems, and large-scale infrastructure vulnerable to an unprecedented range of threats. Insofar as coastlines typically constitute the borders of national states and their geopolitical operations, they are also at the core of planetary environmental, economic and societal transformations. From industrial ports, large-scale metropolitan regions and long-distance transportation corridors to coastal fishing villages, mudflats, wetlands, and marshes, coastlines represent multidimensional spaces of interface between heterogeneous ecologies and infrastructural configurations; national, regional and urban economies; multinational corporations; diverse forms of territorial governance; and regionally embedded circuits of social reproduction. These vital but delicate spaces are in peril.

How should we understand these transformations? What are their implications for inherited forms of social life, spatial organization, and territorial governance? What kinds of interventions might be imagined and mobilized to mitigate their effects not only upon coastlines, but upon the planet as a whole?

This panel brings together scholars from diverse fields—including urban planning, anthropology, sociology, landscape design, and architecture—whose work addresses emerging coastal vulnerabilities, transformations and crises in various sites around the world; their uneven social and spatial impacts; and emergent strategic responses. It will present an interdisciplinary conversation with the aim of generating new approaches to understanding—and shaping—the rapidly mutating environmental conditions of our time.

- 
- CEGU Event**
- 
- November 17, 2022  
Classics 110**
- 
- Chandana Anusha,  
Northwestern University**
- Rachel Gittman,  
East Carolina University**
- Liz Koslov,  
UCLA**
- Moderated by  
Michael Fisch**
-



## RESISTING URBAN RESILIENCE

This CEGU panel brought two eminent urban thinkers to reflect critically on the prospects for radical, emergent, grassroots design interventions to create more democratic, socially just and environmentally viable urban landscapes and forms of urbanization. Despite the timing—early in the quarter, after dark on a cold winter evening—turnout was impressive, with attendance in the high double digits. The event opened with individual presentations from Stephanie Wakefield and Jeff Hou, each of whom, drawing on recent and ongoing work, offered both theoretical and empirical provocations. Wakefield drew our attention, among other things, to the autonomous and decentralized efforts made by marginalized residents of Florida and the Gulf Coast to make their houses better able to withstand extreme storm events; Hou, recounting ethnographic work conducted mostly in Seattle and Taipei, showed how mutual aid networks that sprung up in response to the pandemic can prefigure radical forms of social organization that could empower people in contexts well beyond traditional conceptions of “participation” and “resilience.” A lively discussion followed, allowing the presenters as well as the audience members to explore connections and resonances between the talks and to probe further implications, including to respond to critiques that such decentralized efforts as those presented could reinforce neoliberal ideals about minimizing state responsibility. As an exchange of ideas, a pedagogical opportunity, and networking event, the evening was a huge success.

- 
- CEGU Event**
- 
- January 12, 2023  
1155 E. 60th St.**
- 
- Jeff Hou, University of Washington**
- Stephanie Wakefield, Life University**
- Moderated by Evan Carver**
-



CAPITALISM'S NATURES  
& THE CLIMATE CRISIS

NANCY FRASER &  
JASON W. MOORE  
IN DIALOGUE

NANCY FRASER  
(THE NEW SCHOOL)  
JASON W. MOORE  
(BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY)  
MODERATED BY  
AARON JAKES  
(UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023  
12:00-1:30PM CT  
ROOM 142, 1155 E. 60TH ST.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,  
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CEGU.UCHICAGO.EDU

## CAPITALISM’S NATURES & THE CLIMATE CRISIS

In this public dialogue, two of the leading social theorists of our time discuss the origins, manifestations and consequences of environmental crisis on our rapidly warming planet.

Over the last decade, political theorist Nancy Fraser and historical geographer Jason W. Moore have been among the most influential and systematic proponents of the claim that contemporary environmental emergencies are best understood in relation to—and as a direct expression of—capitalism’s underlying crisis-tendencies. On this understanding, the accumulation of capital is not simply a social or economic process that engenders damaging ecological effects. Rather, capital is itself a way of organizing nature, and thus environmental disasters such as global warming and biodiversity loss reflect its systematic devaluation or “cheapening” of the entire planetary web of life in both human and nonhuman forms. These operations are obscured, they argue, in dominant market-centric and technoscientific discourses, which treat nature as an exterior parameter or infinitely renewable resource supply for human consumption. In contrast, Fraser and Moore seek to draw attention to the “hidden abodes” of human and nonhuman reproductive work that support the operations of capital, and indeed, life itself on planet earth.

Moore and Fraser have been developing closely parallel lines of argument and discussing each other’s work for quite some time. In this conversation, moderated Professor Aaron Jakes of the Department of History, these eminent scholars will share the stage to consider what their respective approaches to an account of “capitalism’s natures” might offer to scholarship on the climate crisis, and to ongoing struggles to create more equitable, democratic, and livable ways of organizing our shared planetary existence.

- 
- CEGU Event
- 
- February 10, 2023  
1155 E. 60th St.
- 
- Nancy Fraser,  
The New School
- Jason W. Moore,  
Binghamton University
- Moderated by  
Aaron Jakes
-



# ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES, EMERGENT ENVIRONMENTS: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES FROM THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

**Inaugural CEGU Conference**

**April 20–21, 2023  
Regenstein Library**

The climate crisis unfolds through a series of environmental emergencies at once abrupt and long-churning. These emergencies are deeply interwoven and yet, at the same time, engender unique and emergent environments of disaster, struggle, and social reinvention. How might we understand the roots of these transformations while attending to the particular environments where emergency erupts? How, in other words, might we think environmental emergencies and emergent environments together?

CEGU’s inaugural conference brings together scholars from across the social sciences and humanities—including agrarian studies, digital humanities, ecology, environmental history, geography, literature, planning, and urban sociology—to dialogue and debate about these issues, their historical genealogies, and future implications. The conference opens with the inaugural Calvin and Freda Redekop Lectures in Environment and Society and will feature panels on agrarian environments, spatial media, urbanization, and waste with leading scholars in conversation with CEGU faculty.

**Calvin & Freda Redekop Lecture in Environment and Society**

Keynote by Holly Jean Buck, Moderated by Elizabeth Chatterjee

**Emergent Agrarian Environments**

Panel with Max Ajl, Helen Anne Curry, and Ivette Perfecto  
Moderated by Gary Herrigel

**Speculative Geographies & Spatial Media**

Panel with Jo Guldi, Shannon Mattern, and Xiaowei R. Wang  
Moderated by Alexander Arroyo and Grga Bašić

**Emergent Environments of Urbanization**

Panel with Hillary Angelo, Ihnji Jon, and Billy Fleming  
Moderated by Neil Brenner

**Reclaiming Waste**

Panel with Vinay Gidwani, Pauline Goul, and Josh Lepawsky  
Moderated by Catherine Kearns

**Closing Roundtable**

Moderated by Sabina Shaikh







BOOK EVENTS

February 2, 2023  
Seminary Co-op Bookstore

**The Profits of Distrust: Citizen-Consumers, Drinking Water, and the Crisis of Confidence in American Government**  
Manuel P. Teodoro, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Sabina Shaikh, Interlocutor

February 9, 2023  
Seminary Co-op Bookstore  
*Co-sponsored by 3CT*

**Cannibal Capitalism: How Our System is Devouring Democracy, Care, and the Planet—And What We Can Do about It**  
Nancy Fraser, The New School  
Ryan Cecil Jobson, Interlocutor

May 2, 2023  
Seminary Co-op Bookstore

**The Intimate City: Walking New York**  
Michael Kimmelman, The New York Times  
Evan Carver, Interlocutor

May 4, 2023  
1155 E. 60th St.  
*Co-sponsored by Romance Languages and Literatures*

**Uprisings of the Earth: The New Ecological Face of the Commune-Form**  
Kristin Ross

May 9, 2023  
1155 E. 60th St.  
*Co-sponsored by 3CT and Global Studies*

**Making Peace with Nature: Ecological Encounters along the Korean DMZ**  
Eleana Kim, University of California, Irvine  
Michael Fisch, Interlocutor

May 18, 2023  
Seminary Co-op Bookstore  
*Co-sponsored by 3CT*

**Scarcity: A History from the Origins of Capitalism to the Climate Crisis**  
Fredrik Albritton Jonsson, The University of Chicago  
Carl Wennerlind, Barnard College  
Dipesh Chakrabarty, Interlocutor

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES WORKSHOP

November 4, 2022  
SSRB Tea Room

**Green Places, Green Aesthetics:  
(Re)producing Vulnerability and the Spatial  
Politics of Street Tree Planning in Chicago**  
Nina Olney, CEGU Instructional Assistant

November 18, 2022  
Harper 104  
*Co-sponsored by the Urban  
Theory Lab and the Neubauer  
Collegium Project on Fossil  
Capitalism in the Global South*

**Global Souths/Native Norths**  
Bathsheba Demuth, Brown University  
Matthew Johnson, Harvard University  
Owain Lawson, University of Toronto  
Jen Rose Smith, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Alexander Arroyo and Elizabeth Chatterjee, Moderators

December 2, 2022  
SSRB Tea Room

**Did the Earth Move for You? Human  
Geological Agency and the Koyna Earthquake  
of 1967**  
Sachaet Pandey, PhD Candidate in History  
Elizabeth Chatterjee, Assistant Professor of Environmental  
History, CEGU, and The College

April 14, 2023  
Wieboldt 103

**Carboniferous Imaginaries in the South:  
Colonial Surveying and the Fate of Fossil  
Energy**  
Jarrod Hore, University of New South Wales

May 12, 2023  
Wieboldt 103

**A Changing Region: Rural Health, Land Loss,  
and the Price of Biosecurity**  
Andrew Seber, PhD Candidate in History

May 19, 2023  
Wieboldt 103


**Frozen Assets: Czechoslovakia’s 1979  
Mega-Blizzard and the Energetic Social  
Contract of Late Socialism**  
Julia Mead, PhD Candidate in History

May 26, 2023  
SSRC 340

**“Kinnovation:” Alternative Methods and  
Moral Responses to Eco-Reproductive  
Concerns**  
Kristi Del Vecchio, PhD Candidate in The Divinity School







FRIZZELL LEARNING  
& SPEAKER SERIES


**STORMY  
WEATHER**  
THE FUTURE OF CITIES  
AND THE CHALLENGE  
OF PARTICIPATORY  
DEMOCRACY

WITH  
**MICHAEL KIMMELMAN**  
NEW YORK TIMES

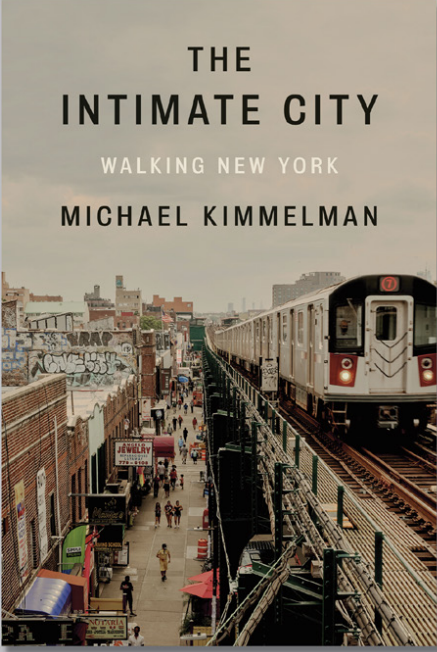
AND INTERLOCUTOR  
**NOOTAN BHARANI**  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO,  
ARTS + PUBLIC LIFE

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023, 4:30–6:00PM  
THE THEATRE, IDA NOYES HALL  
1212 E. 59TH ST. (THIRD FLOOR)

**CEGU**  
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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



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THE  
INTIMATE CITY  
WALKING NEW YORK  
MICHAEL KIMMELMAN

WITH AUTHOR  
**MICHAEL KIMMELMAN**  
NEW YORK TIMES

AND INTERLOCUTOR  
**EVAN CARVER**  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023, 6:00–7:00PM  
SEMINARY CO-OP BOOKSTORE  
5751 S. WOODLAWN AVE.

**CEGU**  
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,  
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION  
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## FRIZZELL LEARNING & SPEAKER SERIES

Established in 2013 thanks to a generous gift in commemoration of the life, accomplishments, and aspirations of Alexandra Frizzell, the Frizzell Family Speaker and Learning Series is a student-organized program of events in agriculture, environment, and health from the perspective of the social sciences. A young woman whose boundless curiosity about the world fueled audacious learning and strong ties to friends and family alike, Alex exemplified the undergraduate for whom wisdom builds upon intelligence. For her, life knowledge, the inspiration of community, and enhancing the chances of others fueled commitment to learning, as well as joy in life. The goal of the series is therefore to better enable students to interact with thought leaders, relevant alumni, faculty, and locally based advocates to build skills, knowledge, and confidence in relation to the above topics.

**May 1, 2023**  
**Ida Noyes Hall**  
*Co-sponsored by Arts+Public  
Life, Architectural Studies, and  
the Department of Art History*

**Stormy Weather: The Future of Cities and the  
Challenge of Participatory Democracy**  
Michael Kimmelman, The New York Times  
Nootan Bharani, Interlocutor

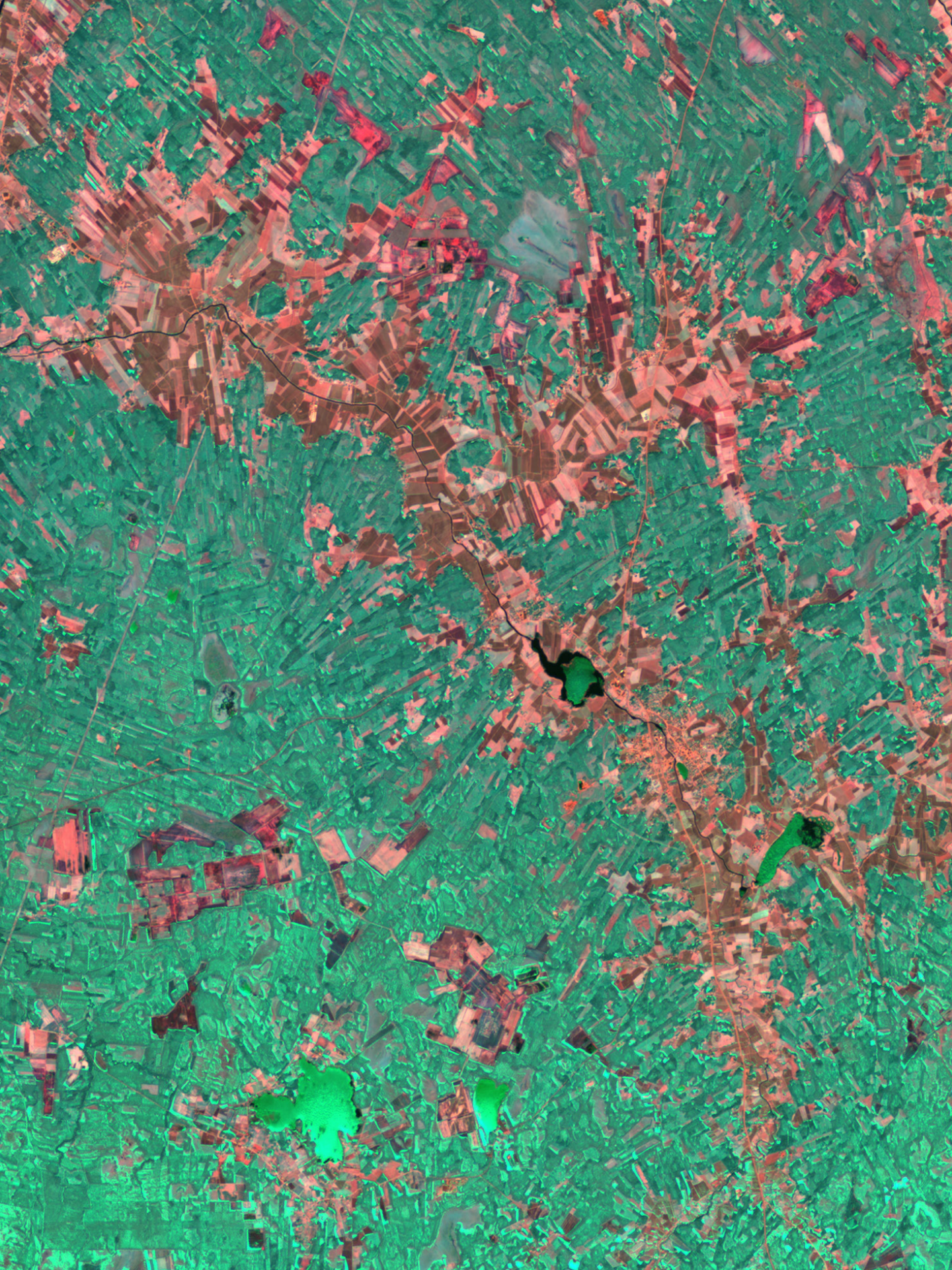
When climate change, aging infrastructure and an affordable housing crisis pose existential threats to our cities and society, why has it become so difficult to get big things done? Are some of the very rules and regulations put in place to solve these sorts of problems getting in the way? A look at the troubled aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in New York City, at some of the obstacles to addressing homelessness, and at some challenges to the construction of subsidized housing around the country.

**May 2, 2023**  
**Seminary Co-op Bookstore**

**The Intimate City: Walking New York**  
Michael Kimmelman, The New York Times  
Evan Carver, Interlocutor

As New York came to a halt with COVID, Kimmelman composed an email to a group of architects, historians, writers, and friends, inviting them to take a walk. At first, the goal was distraction. At a scary moment when everything seemed uncertain, walking around New York served as a reminder of all the ways the city was still a rock, joy, and inspiration. These intimate, funny, richly detailed conversations between Kimmelman and his companions became anchors for millions of Times readers during the pandemic. The walks unpacked the essence of urban life and its social fabric—the history, plans, laws, feats of structural engineering, architectural highlights, and everyday realities that make up a place Kimmelman calls “humanity’s greatest achievement.”





## **FACULTY RESEARCH**



SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Fredrik Albritton Jonsson

Fredrik Albritton Jonsson and Carl Wennerlind. *Scarcity: A History from the Origins of Capitalism to the Climate Crisis*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2023.

Fredrik Albritton Jonsson and Vicky Albritton. *Green Victorians: The Simple Life in John Ruskin’s Lake District*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016. Ruskin Society Book Prize 2016 (runner up).

Brisa Aschebrook-Kilfoy

Saira Tasmin, Brisa Aschebrook-Kilfoy, and Habibul Ahsan. “Long-Term Air Pollution Exposure on COVID-19 Risk and Severity.” ISEE Conference Abstracts 2022 (September 2022).

Niall Atkinson

Niall Atkinson and Susanna Caviglia. “Early Modern Rome on the Move.” *Res: Anthropology and Aesthetics*, March 2022, 100–119.

Marc Berman

K.C. Doell, M.G. Berman, G.N. Bratman, et al. “Leveraging neuroscience for climate change research.” *Nat. Clim. Chang.* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-023-01857-4>

Luis Bettencourt

T. Kaufmann, L. Radaelli, L. Bettencourt, E. Shmueli. “Scaling of urban amenities: generative statistics and implications for urban planning.” *EPJ Data Science*, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1140/epjds/s13688-022-00362-6>

L. Bettencourt. “Why the Internet Must Become More Like a City.” Juval Portugali, ed., *The Crisis of Democracy in the Age of Cities*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4166118>

Neil Brenner

Swarnabh Ghosh, Neil Brenner, and Nikos Katsikis. “The global industrial feedlot matrix: a metabolic monstrosity.” Jeffrey S. Nesbit and Charles Waldheim eds., *Technical Lands: A Critical Primer*. Berlin: Jovis, 2023. 132-155.

Neil Brenner and Swarnabh Ghosh. “Between the colossal and the catastrophic: planetary urbanization and the political ecologies of emergent infectious disease.” *Environment and Planning A*, 2022, 1-44 (DOI: 10.1177/0308518X221084313)

Neil Brenner and Nikos Katsikis, “Operational landscapes: hinterlands of the capitalocene.” *Architectural Design / AD* 90, no. 1 (2020): 22-31.

Katherine Buse

Katherine Buse. “Genesis Effects: Growing Planets in 1980s Computer Graphics.” *Configurations*, January 1, 2021.

Evan Carver

Evan H. Carver and Chase Gardner. “Multispecies Conservation Movements and the Redefinition of Urban Nature at Berlin’s Tempelhof Airfield.” *Environment & Planning E: Nature & Space* 5 (4), 2022: 2307–31. doi:10.1177/25148486211047394.

Jerel M. Ezell, Delilah Griswold, Elizabeth C. Chase, and Evan Carver. “The Blueprint of Disaster: COVID-19, the Flint Water Crisis, and Unequal Ecological Impacts.” *The Lancet Planetary Health* 5 (5), 2021: e309–15. doi:10.1016/S2542-5196(21)00076-0.

Dipesh Chakrabarty

Dipesh Chakrabarty. *One Planet, Many Worlds: The Climate Parallax*. Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press, 2023.

Dipesh Chakrabarty. “Capitalism, Work, and the Ground for Planetary Histories: A Speculative Argument.” *Deutsche Vierteljahrsschrift Für Literaturwissenschaft Und Geistesgeschichte* 97 (1), 2023: 33–39. doi:10.1007/s41245-023-00156-2.

Dipesh Chakrabarty. “Planetary Humanities : Straddling the Decolonial/Postcolonial Divide.” *Daedalus* 151 (3), 2022: 222–33.



SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS (CONT.)

Michael P. Conzen

Michael P. Conzen and Vitor Oliveira. 2021. “Becoming an Urban Morphologist: Jeremy W. R. Whitehand.” *Urban Morphology* 25 (1): 76–88. doi:10.51347/UM25.0005.

Elizabeth Chatterjee

Elizabeth Chatterjee. “The Poor Woman’s Energy: Low-Modernist Solar Technologies and International Development, 1878–1966,” *Journal of Global History* (forthcoming).

Elizabeth Chatterjee, Neil Brenner, and Jeremy Bendik-Keymer. “Institutional Reflexivity When Facing the Planetary: An Interview,” *Environmental Philosophy* 19, no. 2 (2022): 203–221, special issue on Dipesh Chakrabarty’s *The Climate of History in a Planetary Age*.

Elizabeth Chatterjee. “Numbers Without Experts: The Populist Politics of Quantification.” Christopher Newfield, Anna Alexandrova, and Stephen John (eds.), *The Limits of the Numerical: The Uses and Abuses of Quantification*, pp. 23–46. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2022.

Shannon Lee Dawdy

Shannon Lee Dawdy and Tamara Kneese, eds. *The New Death: Mortality and Death Care in the Twenty-first Century*. Albuquerque, NM: SAR/University of New Mexico Press, 2022.

Michael Fisch

Michael Fisch. “Japan’s Extreme Infrastructure: Fortress-Ification, Resilience, and Extreme Nature.” *Social Science Japan Journal* 25 (June 2022): 331–52.

Michael Fisch. “Staging Encounters with the End in Pre-Apocalyptic-Post-3.11 Japan.” *Ethnos* 88 (May 2021): 30–51.

Brodwyn Fischer

Brodwyn Fischer and Keila Grinberg, eds. *The Boundaries of Freedom: Slavery, Abolition, and the Making of Modern Brazil*. Cambridge University Press, 2023.

Sarah Fredericks

Sarah Fredericks. *Environmental Guilt and Shame: Signals of Individual and Collective Responsibility and the Need for Ritual Responses*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.

Sarah Fredericks. “Climate Apology and Forgiveness.” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 39, no.1, (Spring/Summer 2019): 143-159.

Pauline Goul

Pauline Goul. “Flowers into the Breach: Women in the Care of Plants.” *L’Esprit Créateur* 62 (4), 2022: 11–24.

Pauline Goul and Phillip John Usher. “Early Modern Écologies: Beyond English Ecocriticism.” *Environmental Humanities in Pre-Modern Cultures: 2*. Amsterdam, Netherlands: Amsterdam University Press, 2020.

Pauline Goul. “Natural History in Early Modern France: The Poetics of an Epistemic Genre.” *The Sixteenth Century Journal*, Volume 51, Issue 1, January 2020, 203-204 ; ISSN 0361-0160 2326-0726. doi:10.1086/scj5101120.

Gary Herrigel

Arianna Tassinari, Gary Herrigel, and Virginia Doellgast. 2023. “On Sidney Rothstein’s Recoding Power: Tactics for Mobilizing Tech Workers.” *Socio-Economic Review* 21 (2): 1257–68. New York: Oxford University Press, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ser/mwad013>.

Aaron Jakes

Aaron G. Jakes. “Powering Empire: How Coal Made the Middle East and Sparked Global Carbonization.” *Mediterranean Historical Review* 36 (2) 2021: 279–82.

Aaron G. Jakes. *Egypt’s Occupation: Colonial Economism and the Crises of Capitalism*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2020.



SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS (CONT.)

Amir Jina	<p>Amir Jina, Michael Jerrett, and Miriam E. Marlier. "Up in smoke: California’s greenhouse gas reductions could be wiped out by 2020 wildfires." <i>Environmental Pollution</i> 310 (2022): 119888.</p> <p>A. Jina, A. Rode, T. Carleton, M. Delgado, M. Greenstone, T. Houser, S. Hsiang, A. Hultgren, R. Kopp, K. McCusker, I. Nath, J. Rising, J. Simcock, J. Yuan "The Social Cost of Global Energy Consumption due to Climate Change." <i>Nature</i>. 598: 308-314. 2021.</p>	Alan Kolata & Sabina Shaikh	<p>A. Kolata, S. Shaikh, J. Johnson, and M. Binford. "Home and Away: Drivers and Perceptions of Migration among Urban Migrants and their Rural Families in the Lower Mekong Basin of Cambodia" <i>Migration and Development</i>, 12(1), September 2023.</p>
Ryan Cecil Jobson	<p>Ryan Cecil Jobson. "Facing the Flames: The Herskovitses, Trinidad, and the Anthropological Imagination." <i>American Ethnologist</i> 50(3), July 2023.</p> <p>Ryan Cecil Jobson. "Keywords in Caribbean Studies: A Project Statement." With Vanessa Perez-Rosario. <i>Small Axe</i> 68, 2022: 80-84.</p> <p>Ryan Cecil Jobson. "Calypso Mike: A Caribbean Tribute to the California Kid." <i>Contemporaries</i> at Post45. August 4, 2022.</p>	Catherine Kearns	<p>Catherine Kearns. "Mediterranean Interconnections Beyond the City: Rural Consumption and Trade in Archaic Cyprus." In J. Hall and J. Osborne (eds.), <i>The Connected Iron Age: Interregional Networks in the Eastern Mediterranean, 900-600 BCE</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2022.</p> <p>C. Kearns and A. Georgiadou. "Rural Complexities: Comparative Investigations of Small Iron Age Sites in South-Central Cyprus." <i>Journal of Field Archaeology</i> 46.7, 2021: 461-479.</p>
Christopher Kindell	<p>Christopher Kindell and Laura Valdés Cano. "Participatory Governance &amp; Local Care Programs during COVID-19: Lessons Learned from Bogotá and Chicago." <i>Metropolis &amp; The Chicago Council on Global Affairs</i>, December 2022.</p> <p>Christopher Kindell. "Arm-to-Arm Vaccinations and Blood-Borne Diseases in 19th-Century Hawai‘i." Invited lecture, University of New South Wales Laureate Centre for History and Population Speaker Series, September 2022, Sydney, NSW, Australia.</p>	Thomas Lamarre	<p>Thomas Lamarre. "Making Sense in Common: Reading Whitehead in Times of Collapse." <i>Posthumanities</i> Vol. 66, p.224. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2023.</p> <p>Thomas Lamarre. "Steampunk Cinema," <i>The Oxford Handbook of New Science Fiction Cinemas</i> (pp. 141-161). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023.</p> <p>Thomas Lamarre. "Fukushima and the Rebuild of Godzilla: Multiplying Media in an Era of Multiplying Disaster." <i>Toxic Immanence: Decolonizing Nuclear Legacies and Futures</i> (pp. 94-126). Montreal: McGill-Queens University Press, 2022.</p>
Alan Kolata	<p>Alan L. Kolata, Tom D. Dillehay, John Warner, Herbert Eling, Charles Ortloff , Patricia J. Netherly, and Renee Bonzani. "Chimú and Chimú-Inka Segmented Agricultural Fields and Canals in the Jequetepeque Valley, Perú." <i>Latin American Antiquity</i>. DOI: Open-access <a href="https://doi.org/10.1017/laq.2022.19">https://doi.org/10.1017/laq.2022.19</a> 27 April 2022.</p>	Jessica Landau	<p>Jessica Landau. "Animal Ghosts: Histories of Hunting, Conservation, and Colonialism in the Work of the Big Four," <i>Survival of the Fittest: Envisioning Wildlife and Wilderness with the Big Four: Masterworks from the Rijksmuseum Twenthe and the National Museum of Wildlife Art</i>. Jackson, WY: National Museum of Wildlife Art, 2023.</p> <p>Jessica Landau. "Can Animals Own Copyright? Animal Generated Photography from George Shiras to the Monkey Selfie." (forthcoming in <i>American Art</i>).</p>



SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS (CONT.)

Laura McGuinn

L. McGuinn, M.J. Rosa, E. Osorio-Valencia, I. Gutiérrez-Avila, H. Harari, I. Kloog, R.J. Wright, M.M. Téllez-Rojo, R.O. Wright, M. Tamayo-Ortiz. “Impact of Urban Stress on Symptoms of Depression, Fatigue, and Sleep Disruption in Women in Mexico City,” *Cities & Health*, pp. 830-838, May 2023.

Laura McGuinn. “Noise pollution in Mexico City: sources and impacts on health outcomes.” USA-Latin American Exposome Symposium. Mexico City, Mexico. May 23, 2023.

Laura McGuinn. “Environmental Justice and Autism Research: Panel Discussion.” NIEHS Environmental Epidemiology of Autism Research Network Meeting. Stockholm, Sweden. May 3, 2023.

Joshua Macey

Aneil Kovvali and Joshua C. Macey. “The Corporate Governance of Public Utilities.” *Yale Journal on Regulation* 40 (2), 2023: 569–619.

Dan Awrey and Joshua Macey. “The Promise & Perils of Open Finance.” *Yale Journal on Regulation* 40 (1), 2023: 1–59.

Joseph Masco

Deborah A. Thomas and Joseph Masco. *Sovereignty Unhinged: An Illustrated Primer for the Study of Present Intensities, Disavowals, and Temporal Derangements*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2023.

Joseph Masco. *Shaking, Trembling, Rattling, Shouting: ; Seismic Politics in the Nuclear Age*. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2022. doi:10.2307/j.ctv307fhmj.12.

Joseph Masco. *The Artificial World*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2022. doi:10.2307/j.ctv23hcdnt.10.

Victoria Saramago

Victoria Saramago. *Fictional Environments: Mimesis, Deforestation, and Development in Latin America*. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2021.

Victoria Saramago. “Apocalyptic Imaginaries in Portuguese,” co-edited with Chloe Hill. *Journal of Lusophone Studies*, v. 7, n. 1, 2022.

Victoria Saramago. “Visual Narratives of Hydropower: Carolina Caycedo in Brazil.” Forthcoming at *Mediations: Journal of the Marxist Literary Group*.

Victoria Saramago. “Magueyes and Machines: Narratives of Environmental Change in Mid-Twentieth Century Mexico.” *FORMA: A Journal of Latin American Criticism*, v.2, n. 1, 2023, 85-108.

Sabina Shaikh

Sabina Shaikh and Emily Talen: *Our Urban Future: An Active Learning Guide to Sustainable Cities*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2023.

S. Shaikh, S. Manohar, S. Downs, S. Mak, S. Sok, E. Graham, L. Miachon, and J. Fanzo. “Riverine food environments and food security: a case study of the Mekong River, Cambodia.” *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 101(2), 2023.

Mehrnoush Soroush

Mehrnoush Soroush and MA students from the University of Sulaimani, Kurdistan Governorate of Iraq: *Seismic Tomography for the detection of the underground hydraulic systems* (in progress).

Mehrnoush Soroush. *Pots of Empowerment and the Typo-Chronology of Late Historic Ceramics on the Erbil Plain* (in progress).





**LOOKING AHEAD**



## CASHDAN FUND

Thanks to a generous four-year gift from the Cashdan family, CEGU will launch a new program this year entitled the CEGU Research Studios and Seminars. This program will aim to advance experiential learning offerings, community studies, design studios, undergraduate research on campus sustainability, and diverse forms of pedagogy that will benefit substantially from fieldwork, data collection and analysis, and other forms of engagement on site in Chicago, the U.S. and global settings. CEGU Research Studios and Seminars will take place throughout the year, in both curricular and research forms.

In 2023–24, we offered three experiential courses during September term: one across neighborhoods in Chicago, another at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, and a new study abroad in Berlin. Later on, the program will expand these offerings at new sites including the Galapagos Islands, Warren Woods Field Station in Michigan, Marine Biological Laboratories and at other U.S. and global locations. The CEGU Research Studios and Seminars will also expand support for immersive quarters, including the program’s signature Calumet Quarter, an engaged field study of urban ecology and social justice in a historically eco-industrial area of Chicago.

## PAST AND FUTURE COMMONS

2024 CEGU Conference | May 9–10, 2024

Organized by Fredrik Albritton Jonsson,  
Sabina Shaikh, Nicole Whalen, and Oliver Cussen

Including the 2024 Calvin & Freda Redekop Lecture in  
Environment and Society by Olúfẹ́mi O. Táíwò

The twin emergencies of climate change and biodiversity loss have led to a revived interest in the past and future of “the commons”—in land that exists prior to or beyond private property, where social relations and natural resources are governed without the regulation of the state. To what extent do historical, existing, and imagined examples of the commons—from the precapitalist village, the urban commune, or the global commons—offer models for sustainable and democratic forms of political ecology? How might renewed attention to the commons allow us to reconsider the environmental consequences of previous and ongoing processes of enclosure and dispossession? The habitability of the planet depends on the fate of our planetary commons in the earth, atmosphere, and ocean (phytoplankton, wetland plants, soil biota etc.). In pointing beyond the traditional institutions of the state and the market, the commons offer ways of rethinking the societal, spatial, and ethical dimensions of climate change, reorienting our understanding of the relationship between urban and rural, local and planetary, the global north and the global south, the human and the non-human.

For a complete list of CEGU events in 2023–24, please visit [cegu.uchicago.edu/events](https://cegu.uchicago.edu/events).



NEW FACULTY AND STAFF



**MARY BETH PUDUP**      **Instructional Professor & Director of Community Studies**

Mary Beth Pudup is a historical and economic geographer with abiding interest in the comparative political economy of cities, regional development, community organizations, and the ecology of place. She assumes a new position within CEGU to elevate community facing pedagogy addressing the contemporary era’s urgent questions of environmental change.



**CHRISTOPHER KINDELL**      **Assistant Instructional Professor & 2023–24 Coordinator of BA Theses**

Christopher Kindell is a historian of public health, medicine, and technology from the eighteenth century to the present. He teaches courses on the history of public health, medicine, technology, and the environment; race, indigeneity, and migration; and American imperialism in the Pacific World.



**JESSICA LANDAU**      **Assistant Instructional Professor & 2023–24 Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies**

Jessica Landau is an art historian whose research looks at images of North American megafauna from the 19th and 20th centuries in order to understand the ways in which problematic settler colonial and masculinist tropes from these periods are still present in contemporary conservation discourse. She teaches courses that approach these and other topics from an interdisciplinary perspective grounded in the environmental humanities, art history, museum studies, and Indigenous studies.

**DERICK ANDERSON**      **Instructional Assistant**

Derick Anderson is a planner and geographer whose research is focused on affordable housing, community development, and resident-led solutions to the housing crisis. Derick is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Urban Planning and Policy at the University of Illinois Chicago, and is a lifelong Chicagoan who enjoys reading good books and exploring Chicago neighborhoods.



**BEK ERL**      **Instructional Assistant**

In their research, Bek investigates environmental racism in the United States and Brazil, in partnership with Indigenous communities. Bek graduated with a Master’s Degree in Social Sciences from the University of Chicago in 2023, with a focus on Anthropology and GIS. Bek received their bachelor’s degree in Modern Languages from Knox College in 2019. Outside of the office, Bek enjoys spending time with their community, baking for their friends, and running.



**TESS CONWAY**      **Student Affairs Administrator**

Tess Conway joined CEGU in Spring 2023 as Student Affairs Administrator. She previously worked as Assistant Director of Programming & Partnerships for Chicago Studies, where she developed city-based para-curricular programming and managed on- and off-campus partnerships that aided the College in learning from and with the communities of the city in which it makes its home.





