

NATHANIEL OTJEN

Environmental Studies Program
University of Oregon
5223 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Environmental Sciences, Studies, and Policy and English with an advanced certificate in the Graduate Teaching Initiative, University of Oregon, Expected 2022
Dissertation: "Multispecies Memoir: Self, Genre, and Species Justice in Contemporary Culture"
Committee: Stephanie LeMenager (chair), Stacy Alaimo, Marsha Weisiger, Ursula Heise, Ryan Jones
- M.A. English, University of Oregon, 2018
- B.A. English (Honors, Creative Writing Track with Nonfiction Emphasis) and Anthropology (Honors) with High Distinction, University of Iowa, 2016

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Environmental humanities, multispecies justice, environmental justice, multispecies studies, autobiography studies, feminist science studies, contemporary life writing, 20th and 21st century U.S. and global Anglophone literature, multicultural literature, feminist theory, queer theory, posthumanist and new materialist theory

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2022 "Habituated Knowledges: The Entanglements of Science, Species, and Selfhood," *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies*, 44 pages, forthcoming.
- 2021 "Barbadian Biocontact Zones and Threatened English Colonialism: Reading the Unruly Species of Richard Ligon's *History*," *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, vol. 28, no. 2, 2021, 436-61.
- 2020 "Uncomfortable Encounters: Cockroach Narratives, Selfhood, and Togetherness," *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities*, vol. 8, no. 2, 2020, 88-102.
- 2020 "When Things Hail: The Material Encounter in Anthropocene Literature," *Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Technology, and Culture*, vol. 28, no. 3, 2020, 285-307.
- 2020 "Energy Anxiety and Fossil Fuel Modernity in H.G. Wells's *The War of the Worlds*," *Journal of Modern Literature*, vol. 43, no. 2, 2020, 118-33.
- 2019 "Indigenous Radical Resurgence and Multispecies Landscapes: Leslie Marmon Silko's *The Turquoise Ledge*," *Studies in American Indian Literatures*, vol. 31, no. 3-4, 2019, 135-57.

- 2019 "The Fire Ants of Hurricane Harvey: Displacement and Belonging in Houston," *Otherness: Essays and Studies* (special issue on "Otherness and the Urban"), vol. 7, no. 1, 2019, 169-93.
- 2018 "Inscriptive Energetics: Climate Change, Energy, Inscription," *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*, vol. 9, no. 1, March 2019, 45-53. First online on 10 September 2018.
- 2017 "Creating a Barrio in Iowa City, Iowa, 1916-36: Mexican Section Laborers and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company," *The Annals of Iowa*, vol. 76, no. 4, 2017, 406-32.

Book Chapters

- 2022 "The Climate of Extinction: Resistant Multispecies Communities in Barbara Kingsolver's *Flight Behavior* and Richard Powers's *The Overstory*," *Nonhuman Animals, Climate Crisis and the Role of Literature*, edited by Matthias Stephan and Sune Borkfelt, Palgrave Studies in Animals and Literature, 30 pages, forthcoming.

Book Reviews

- 2021 Review of *Bad Dog: Pit Bull Politics and Multispecies Justice* by Harlan Weaver. *Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Technology, and Culture*, vol. 29, no. 3, forthcoming.
- 2020 Review of *The Wake of Crows: Living and Dying in Shared Worlds* by Thom van Dooren. *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, vol. 27, no. 2, 2020, 427-29.
- 2019 "Rewriting the Urban: Frederick L. Brown's Animal History of Seattle." Review of *The City is More Than Human: An Animal History of Seattle* by Frederick L. Brown, *Journal of the West*, vol. 58, no. 3, 2019, 75-77.
- 2018 "Telling Multispecies Stories from the Anthropocene." Review of *Arts of Living on a Damaged Planet: Ghosts and Monsters of the Anthropocene* edited by Anna Tsing, Heather Swanson, Elaine Gan, and Nils Bubandt, *Humanimalia*, vol. 10, no. 1, 2018, 237-41.
- 2018 Review of *Mozart's Starling* by Lyanda Lynn Haupt, *Western American Literature*, vol. 53, no. 1, 2018, 132-33.

Pedagogy

- 2019 Co-Author, Teaching and Curriculum Guide for Helena María Viramontes's *Under the Feet of Jesus*, University of Oregon Common Reading Program, 2019, <https://fyp.uoregon.edu/sites/fyp2.uoregon.edu/files/final-teaching-guide-april-25-2019-reduced.pdf>

Public Facing

- 2021 "Hawaiian Monk Seals and Homelessness: Extinction Stories for Multispecies Justice," *The Living Archive: Extinction Stories from Oceania*, 6 September 2021, <https://www.extinctionstories.org/2021/09/06/hawaiian-monk-seals-and-homelessness/>

- 2020 “Fossil Fuel Modernities,” *Indiana University Press News Blog*, 1 April 2020, <https://iupress.typepad.com/blog/2020/04/fossil-fuel-modernities-a-closer-look-at-jml-432.html>

In Progress

“Ho‘ailona: Homelessness, Extinction, and Belonging in Hawai‘i,” 16 pages

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2020 Outstanding Graduate Employee Teaching Award, Environmental Studies Program, University of Oregon
- 2020 Graduate Teaching Excellence Award, finalist, University of Oregon
- 2017 Mildred Throne – Charles Aldrich Academic History Award, State Historical Society of Iowa Board of Trustees. For the most significant article on Iowa history published during 2017.
- 2017 Dorothy Schwieder Prize, honorable mention, Midwestern History Association. For the best scholarly article on the Midwest published in 2017.
- 2017 Sarah Harkness Kirby Essay Prize, Department of English, University of Oregon
- 2016 Joseph E. and Ursil I. Callen Prize, University of Iowa

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 Risa Palm Graduate Fellowship, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oregon. For promise in academic field.
- 2021 Harvey Lee Graduate Scholarship, University of Oregon
- 2021 Soderwall Research Grant, Environmental Studies Program, University of Oregon
- 2021 Virtual Opportunity Award, Graduate School, University of Oregon
- 2020 Provost’s Grant for Library Research, Wake Forest University (awarded; funding disbursement postponed due to COVID-19)
- 2020 Culture and Animals Foundation Research Grant, Culture and Animals Foundation & The Animals and Society Institute
- 2020 Oregon Humanities Center Graduate Research Support Fellowship, Oregon Humanities Center, University of Oregon
- 2020 Hill Graduate Award, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oregon
- 2020 Harvey Lee Graduate Scholarship, University of Oregon
- 2020 Special Opportunity Travel and Research Award, Graduate School, University of Oregon
- 2019 Johnston Scholarship, University of Oregon
- 2018 College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Fellowship, University of Oregon
- 2018 Robert Graham and Betty Ann Austin Memorial Scholarship, University of Oregon
- 2017 Ecocritical Research Travel Grant, Department of English, University of Oregon

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

National

- 2021 "Running Out of Energy: Avian Rehabilitation, Disability, and Care," 34th Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (virtual)
- 2021 "Resisting With: Human-Species Coalitions and the Pursuit of Multispecies Justice," Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference (virtual)
- 2021 "Ho'ailona: Homelessness, Extinction, and Belonging in the South Pacific," American Comparative Literature Association's 2021 Annual Meeting (virtual)
- 2021 "Partners in Knowledge Production: Hope Jahren's Collaborative Plant Science," 52nd Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, University of Pennsylvania (virtual)
- 2020 "Narrating Multispecies Justice: Queer, Feminist, and Canine Well-being in Nicole J. Georges's *Fetch: How a Bad Dog Brought Me Home*," Environmental Justice in Multispecies Worlds Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2019 "Multispecies Memoir: Entangled Narratives from the Anthropocene," Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference, University of California, Davis
- 2019 "Troubling English Colonialism: The Unruly Species of Richard Ligon's *History*," Society of Early Americanists Eleventh Biennial Conference, University of Oregon
- 2018 "Inscriptive Energetics: Climate Change, Energy, Inscription," A Clockwork Green: Ecomedia in the Anthropocene, University of California, Santa Barbara (virtual)
- 2017 "Uncomfortable Encounters: Cockroaches and Multispecies Entanglements," Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference, Wayne State University
- 2016 "Reinforcing the Border of the Self, Blurring the Border of Nation-States: Latino Immigrant Horticultural Knowledge in Oral Histories," American Comparative Literature Association's 2016 Annual Meeting, Harvard University

Local and Regional

- 2018 "Inscriptive Energetics," 7th Annual University of Oregon Climate Change Research Symposium, University of Oregon
- 2018 "Complicating Colonialism: The Unruly Species of Richard Ligon's *History*," Environmental Arts and Humanities Graduate Conference, Oregon State University
- 2017 "'An Understanding Beyond Words': Cockroaches and Multispecies Entanglements," Environmental Joint Campus Conference, University of Oregon

Panels Organized, Chaired, and Moderated

- 2021 Organizer and Chair, "Multispecies Justice: Emergency, Action, Theory," Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference (virtual)
- 2021 Chair, "Being with Plants" session, 52nd Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, University of Pennsylvania

- 2019 Co-organizer and co-chair, “Multispecies Paradise During the Anthropocene” panel, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference, University of California, Davis
- 2018 Moderator, “Practitioner Perspectives on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion on Public Lands” panel, Environmental Justice, Race, and Public Lands: A Symposium, University of Oregon
- 2017 Co-organizer, “Rusted Species” panel, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference, Wayne State University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Oregon

Environmental Studies

- Instructor of Record ENVS 411 Multispecies Justice (Fall 2021)
- Instructor of Record ENVS 345 Environmental Ethics (Summer 2021, async. online)
- Instructor of Record ENVS 203 Introduction to Environmental Studies: Humanities (Summer 2020, async. online)
- Instructor of Record ENVS 411 Multispecies Studies and the Anthropocene (Spring 2020)
- Teaching Assistant ENVS 345 Environmental Ethics (Winter 2020)
- Teaching Assistant ENVS 202 Introduction to Environmental Studies: Natural Sciences (Winter & Spring 2018)
- Teaching Assistant ENVS 203 Introduction to Environmental Studies: Humanities (Fall 2017 & Fall 2019)

English and Composition

- Instructor of Record WR 122 Food Justice (Winter 2019)
- Instructor of Record WR 121 Sustainability (Fall 2018)
- Teaching Assistant ENG 300 Introduction to Literary Criticism and Theory (Spring 2017)
- Writing Tutor Composition Program (Fall 2016 & Winter 2017)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Oregon

- Research Assistant Center for Environmental Futures (Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Spring 2021, Summer 2021)
- Conference Organizer Joint Campus Environmental Conference, Environmental Studies Program (Winter 2020)
- Curriculum Developer Graduate-Level Scientific and Technical Writing Course, Department of English (Spring 2019)

SERVICE

University of Oregon

- Member, Anti-Racist Strategies Working Group, 2020-Present

Co-organizer, Mesa Verde Ecocriticism Reading Group, 2018-Present
Reader, Teaching Guide for Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Common Reading Program, 2021
Member, Seminar and Events Committee, Environmental Studies Program, 2018-2020
Member, Center for Environmental Futures Undergraduate Awards Committee, 2019-2020
Workshop Leader, Workshop on Teaching Helena María Viramontes's *Under the Feet of Jesus*, Teaching Engagement Program, 2019
Invited Speaker, Humanities Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program, 2019
Participating Researcher, Center for Environmental Futures Field School, 2018
Invited Speaker, College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board, 2018

LANGUAGES

Spanish (intermediate reading / writing / speaking)
French (intermediate reading / writing)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)
Modern Language Association (MLA)
American Studies Association (ASA)
Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA)
American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)