

# NATHANIEL OTJEN

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Environmental Sciences, Studies, and Policy and English with an advanced certificate in the Graduate Teaching Initiative, University of Oregon, 2022  
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

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Sustainability and Environmental Studies, Ramapo College, 2024-  
Postdoctoral Research Associate and Environmental Teaching Fellow, High Meadows  
Environmental Institute, Princeton University, 2022-2024

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Environmental humanities; environmental justice studies; multispecies ethnography; narrative theory; critical animal studies; energy humanities; autobiography studies; feminist science studies; 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century U.S. literature; feminist theory; posthumanist theory

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Book in Progress**

*Entangled Lives: Multispecies Selves, Justice, and Narratives*

### **Edited Volumes**

2024 Co-editor with Danielle Celermajer, "Multispecies Justice and Narrative," *the minnesota review*, forthcoming.

### **Peer-Reviewed Articles**

2024 With Danielle Celermajer, "Introduction: Narrative and Multispecies Justice," *Multispecies Justice and Narrative* special issue, *the minnesota review*, forthcoming.  
2024 "Ho'ailona: Homelessness, Extinction, and Conservation in Hawai'i," *Environmental Humanities*, vol. 16, no. 2, 2024, 309-30.  
2023 "Economies of Extinction: Animals, Labour, and Inheritance in the Longleaf Pine Forests of the U.S. South," *Animal Studies Journal* (special issue on "Critical Animal Studies in an Age of Extinction"), vol. 12, no. 2, 2023, 14-40.  
2022 "Habituated Knowledges: The Entanglements of Science, Species, and Selfhood," *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies*, vol. 38, no. 1, 2023, 355-83. First online on 18 October 2022.

- 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

- 2025 With Jessica Ng and Juan Manuel Rubio, “Remapping Petrified Ontologies: From Mineral Resources to Multispecies Relations,” *becoming—Fluid*, Objet-a Creative Studio
- 2022 “The Climate of Extinction: Resistant Multispecies Communities in Barbara Kingsolver’s *Flight Behavior* and Richard Powers’s *The Overstory*,” *Literary Animal Studies and the Climate Crisis*, edited by Matthias Stephan and Sune Borkfelt, Palgrave Studies in Animals and Literature, 179-199. First online on 22 November 2022.

### Book Reviews

- 2024 (Invited) “Who Benefits from Multispecies Justice?” Review of *The Promise of Multispecies Justice* edited by Sophie Chao, Karin Bolender, and Eben Kirksey. *Humanimalia*, forthcoming.
- 2023 Review of *Animal Resistance in the Global Capitalist Era* by Sarat Colling. *Journal of Animal Ethics*, vol. 13, no. 1, 2023, 93-94.
- 2022 Review of *Bad Dog: Pit Bull Politics and Multispecies Justice* by Harlan Weaver. *Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Technology, and Culture*, vol. 30, no. 1, 2022, 105-07.

- 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

- 2024 First author, then Juan Manuel Rubio, "Renewable Energy in the College Classroom: Lessons in Experiential Learning," *Teaching Energy Humanities*, edited by Jason Molesky and Debra Rosenthal, Modern Language Association (MLA), forthcoming.
- 2024 "Teaching Multispecies Relationships: Nonhumans and Knowledge Production in Science Writing," *Teaching with Science Writing in the Humanities Classroom*, edited by Lisa Ottum, Allison Dushane, and Ros Powell, Modern Language Association (MLA), forthcoming.
- 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

- 2024 With Allison Carruth, Barron Bixler, and Jayme Collins, "Pop-up Story Patch," Ecotopian Tool for Multispecies Flourishing, Penn Program in Environmental Humanities, Morris Arboretum and Gardens, Philadelphia, PA
- 2024 With Juan Manuel Rubio, Max Widmann, Alex Norbrook, and Grace Wang, *Mining for the Climate*, podcast series, <https://bluelabmedia.org/projects/audio/mining-for-the-climate/>
- 2023 First author, then Lena Schlegel, Shannon Lambert, Hannah Della Bosca, and Blanche Verlie, "Multispecies Grief in the Wake of Megafires," *Edge Effects*, 1 June 2023, <https://edgeeffects.net/multispecies-grief-megafires/>
- 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>

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

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- 2023 Schachterle Essay Prize, Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts. For the best new essay on literature and science written in English by a nontenured scholar.
- 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 in 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**

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- 2024 With Allison Carruth, Barron Bixler and Jayme Collins, 2024 Ecotopian Toolmaking Award, Penn Program in Environmental Humanities, University of Pennsylvania
- 2023 High Meadows Environmental Institute Speaker Grant, Princeton University (funded a talk and roundtable with Wyatt Gjullin, EarthRights International)
- 2023 Alfred D. Bell Jr. Research and Travel Grant, Forest History Society
- 2022 Winterthur Research Fellowship, Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library
- 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 disbursed in 2021-22 due to COVID-19 pandemic)
- 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

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### National

- 2024 "Climate Displacements: Critical Mineral Mining and Settler Colonialism," Society of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Dallas
- 2024 "Multispecies Ethnography on the Shore: When Whales, Wind Farms, and Global Shipping Routes Collide," American Anthropological Association, Tampa
- 2024 "Defying the Normativity of Urban Green Spaces: Unhoused Queers and Dogs," Modern Language Association, Philadelphia
- 2023 "In the Wake of Wildfire: Nonhuman Obituaries and the Climate Crisis," Association for the Study of Literature and Environment and Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences Conference, Portland, Oregon
- 2023 "The Entanglements of Reading and Writing: Literature and the Multispecies Turn," American Comparative Literature Association's 2023 Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 2021 "Running Out of Energy: Avian Rehabilitation, Disability, and Care," 34<sup>th</sup> 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," 52<sup>nd</sup> 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)
- 2018 "Inscriptive Energetics," 7<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Oregon Climate Change Research Symposium, University of Oregon
- 2017 "Uncomfortable Encounters: Cockroaches and Multispecies Entanglements," Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference, Wayne State University
- 2017 "'An Understanding Beyond Words': Cockroaches and Multispecies Entanglements," Environmental Joint Campus Conference, University of Oregon
- 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

**International**

- 2024 “Pandemic Persons: Being Human in a Time of COVID,” International Conference of Three Societies on Literature and Science, Birmingham, UK
- 2023 “Foraging, Racial Politics, and Environmental Exclusion: Reading Nonhuman Relations,” Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Le Centre Sheraton Montreal
- 2022 “Structures of Care: Avian Architecture and Affects,” Nature Feelz Symposium, Sydney Environment Institute, University of Sydney
- 2022 “The Multispecies Turn: Orientations, Genealogies, Futures,” American Comparative Literature Association’s 2022 Annual Meeting, National Taiwan Normal University (virtual)
- 2022 “Blue Care: Marine Conservation and Extinction,” Blue Extinction Symposium, Sheffield Animal Studies Research Centre, University of Sheffield (virtual)

**Invited**

- 2024 “Avian Care: Conflict and Interdependency in Birdkeeping,” The Multispecies Workshop at Stanford, Stanford University (virtual)
- 2024 “Mining for the Climate: Voices of Justice,” Administrators as Scholars Seminar, Program in Teacher Preparation, Princeton University
- 2024 “Critical Mineral Mining, Petrified Ontologies, and Multispecies Justice,” Multispecies Anthropocene Graduate Seminar, University of Oregon (virtual)
- 2024 “The White Gold Rush: Critical Minerals, Mining, and Climate Justice,” Environmental Justice Class, Lafayette College
- 2024 “What is a holistic approach to sustainability?,” Managing Organizational Behavior Class, Ramapo College
- 2024 Respondent, *In the Name of Lithium* film screening, Princeton Energy and Climate Scholars (PECS), Princeton University
- 2023 Co-speaker with Jessica Ng, “Critical Minerals and Communities,” Princeton University Energy and Climate Scholars (PECS) Program, Princeton University
- 2023 “Climate Mitigation, Renewables, and Mining,” High Meadows Environmental Institute, Princeton University
- 2023 “Mining for the Climate: Teaching for Transformation,” QUEST Summer Institute, Program in Teacher Preparation, Princeton University
- 2022 “The Rush for Lithium: Energy Colonialism, Carbon Capitalism, and Multispecies Violence,” Environmental Studies Seminar Series, University of Oregon
- 2018 “Complicating Colonialism: The Unruly Species of Richard Ligon’s *History*,” Environmental Arts and Humanities Graduate Conference, Oregon State University

**Panels Organized, Chaired, and Moderated**

- 2024 Chair, “Speculative Cities” and “Subjects and Spaces of Energy Transition,” Petrocultures 2024, Los Angeles

- 2024 Co-organizer and co-chair with Davina Höll, “Modes of Being Human: Liberalism and Living Otherwise in Science and Literature,” International Conference of Three Societies on Literature and Science, Birmingham, UK
- 2024 Co-organizer and co-chair with Davy Knittle, “Queer and Trans Multispecies Justice,” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia
- 2023 Organizer and Chair, “Narrative at the Dull Edge of Extinction,” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment and Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences Conference, Portland, Oregon
- 2023 Chair, “Experiments in Environmental Research and Creative Practice,” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment and Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences Conference, Portland, Oregon
- 2023 Organizer and Chair, “The Multispecies Turn: Human and Nonhuman Entanglements,” American Comparative Literature Association’s 2023 Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 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, 52<sup>nd</sup> Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, University of Pennsylvania (virtual)
- 2019 Co-organizer and co-chair with Clinton Crockett Peters, “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 with Clinton Crockett Peters, “Rusted Species” panel, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference, Wayne State University

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Ramapo College**

World Sustainability (ENST 209, Fall 2024)

Environmental History (ENST 215, Fall 2024)

### **Princeton University**

#### **Freshman Seminar Program**

People and Pets (FRS 189, Fall 2023) \*Endowed by the Class of 1963 Freshman Seminar Fund

### **University of Oregon**

#### **Environmental Studies**

Instructor of Record Multispecies Justice (ENVS 411, Fall 2021)

Instructor of Record Environmental Ethics (ENVS 345, Summer 2021, async. online)

Instructor of Record Introduction to Environmental Studies: Humanities (ENVS 203, Summer 2020, async. online)

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

### **English and Composition**

Instructor of Record	Introduction to Environmental Literature (ENG 230, Spring 2022)
Instructor of Record	Written Reasoning: Ecology of Place (WR 122, Winter 2022)
Instructor of Record	Written Reasoning: Food Justice (WR 122, Winter 2019)
Instructor of Record	Written Reasoning: Sustainability (WR 121, Fall 2018)
Teaching Assistant	Introduction to Literary Criticism and Theory (ENG 300, Spring 2017)
Writing Tutor	Composition Program (Fall 2016 & Winter 2017)

### **INTERNSHIPS ORGANIZED**

With Jessica Ng, "Mining for the Climate," funded by the High Meadows Environmental Institute and Blue Lab, Princeton University, Summer 2024. Student interns: Chris Bao and José Santacruz

With Juan Manuel Rubio, "Mining for the Climate," funded by the High Meadows Environmental Institute and Blue Lab, Princeton University, Summer 2023. Student interns: Alex Norbrook, Grace Wang, and Max Widmann

### **ADVISING**

Advisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Terra Morrison, "In Pursuit of Food Sovereignty: A Guide to Ethical Foraging in Oregon," University of Oregon, 2021-22

### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

"Mining for the Climate" Podcast, Charlotte Talks with Mike Collins, WFAE 90.7, Charlotte, North Carolina, August 28, 2024

### **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

Affiliated Member, Sydney Environment Institute, University of Sydney, 2024-  
Professional Liaison (elected), Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE), 2024-

Manuscript Reviewer, *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, 2023-

Manuscript Reviewer, *Environmental Humanities*, 2022-

Manuscript Reviewer, *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, 2022-



**UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

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**Princeton University**

Moderator, Environment, Society and Urban Sustainability Session, High Meadows  
 Environmental Institute 2023-24 Internship Orientation, Princeton University, 2024  
 Workshop Leader, Developing Research Posters for Environmental Studies Seniors, Princeton  
 University, 2023

**University of Oregon**

Member, Undergraduate Program Committee, Environmental Studies Program, 2021-2022  
 Member, Anti-Racist Strategies Working Group, 2020-2022  
 Co-organizer, Mesa Verde Ecocriticism Reading Group, 2018-2021  
 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**

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

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)  
 Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA)  
 American Studies Association (ASA)  
 Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)  
 Modern Language Association (MLA)  
 American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)