

EARTHs 2014-2015 Report

Our Mission

This organization serves as a meeting ground for graduate students, faculty and others interested in research and service related to the five tenets of the group's name. We recognize that environment, agriculture, resources, technology and society intersect in meaningful and highly impactful ways in our world today. This group strives to provide support for the professional aspirations of its members as they pursue research and service regarding these areas. The group meets regularly to discuss current research projects, themes and ideas as well as to host presentations of its members. Additionally, EARTHs hopes to reach out to the broader WSU and Palouse region by hosting public events promoting a deeper understanding of the current issues regarding environment, agriculture, resources, technology and society today.

Year in Review

We are at the close of another exciting year of EARTHs! In the last twelve months we have welcomed two new co-officers, Darcy Hauslik and Jonathan Dahlem, grown our membership by 20% percent, and successfully hosted our 2nd bi-annual mini-Conference. While EARTHs has always valued its interdisciplinary nature, this year was unprecedented in the number of departments represented at our presentations and workshops, and at our mini-conference. Brown bag presentations hosted throughout the year served as casual opportunities for graduate students and faculty to share their research and receive constructive feedback from those in attendance. In December we hosted our first ever idea share and writing workshop in which members were invited to bring writing projects to the table no matter their stage of completion. Overall, we are pleased with the current state of the group and look forward to continued progress and involvement from academics around the community.

Presentations and Workshops

October 3rd, 2014: Joe Astorino (Department of Sociology) - "How Do You Map the Dimensions of an Epistemic Culture?"

October 15th, 2014: Elyse Bean (Department of Sociology) - "Social Value Orientation and Norms: The Differing Impact on Cooperative Behavior"

October 29th, 2014: Lauren Scott (Department of Sociology) - "Environmental Sociology: An Analysis of Integration and Trends"

November 12th, 2014: Nicole Ward (Water Resources Program, University of Idaho) - "Improving Agricultural Nitrogen Use Through Policy Incentivized Management Strategies"

December 3rd, 2014: Idea Share and Writing Workshop

February 24th, 2015: Dr. Emily Kennedy (Department of Sociology) - "Lost in Translation: How Environmental Concern Evaporates in the Practice of Everyday Life, A Case Study of Food Politics"

2015 Conference: “The Anthropocene: Confronting Global Environmental Change and Hazardous Worlds”

On April 11th, 2015, EARTHs hosted the interdisciplinary conference titled: “The Anthropocene: Confronting Global Environmental Change and Hazardous Worlds.” This interdisciplinary mini-conference gathered presenters from a variety of fields to cover a range of topics with an emphasis on (1) human activity contributing to climate change or environmental risk production or (2) collective efforts that seek to address or adapt to such problems in local, regional, national, and/or international venues. We were delighted to have Dr. Debra Davidson, professor at University of Alberta, Director of Resilient Urban Food Systems, and lead author of Work Group II for Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as our keynote speaker.

This year, we had 15 presenters from six different academic departments:

- *WSU Department of Sociology*: Darcy Hauslik, Pierce Greenberg, Joseph Kremer, Michael Lengefeld, Sarah Morton, Feng Hao, and Liz Dzialo
- *WSU Department of Crop and Soil Sciences*: Dr. Lynne Carpenter–Boggs and Lauren Port
- *WSU School of Biological Sciences*: Travis Seaborn and Emily Hall
- *WSU School of Design and Construction*: Dr. Steve Austin
- *University of Idaho Department of Environmental Science*: Huijin Zhang
- *University of Idaho Department of Chemistry*: Charles O’Nwamba

Thirty-four graduate students, faculty, and community members attend from several departments at Washington State University (Sociology, Crop and Soil Sciences, Politics-Philosophy-and-Public Affairs, Biology, Communication, and Natural Resource Sciences) as well as from the University of Idaho’s department of Environmental Science.

The conference was sponsored by the WSU Department of Sociology, the Foley Institute, and the WSU Graduate and Professional Student Association. We are very grateful for all the support provided by those who helped to organize and volunteered at the conference.

Looking Ahead to 2015-2016

- 1) Officer elections were held on April 21st, 2015. We are pleased to welcome back all of our current officers for the 2015-2016 academic year.
- 2) A major point of continuing discussion is the frequency of our conference. For now, we have decided that a conference every other year is the most feasible option in terms of funding and research projects. In the meantime, if anyone has recommendations for keynote speakers or themes, we would be happy to hear about them.
- 3) We are pleased to announce that EARTHs is planning to partner with the Community Action Center Food Bank Garden Program in the fall. There will be opportunities to volunteer with a local service agency that is dedicated to addressing issues of food security and year-round access to fresh produce for those in need in Whitman County. More details to follow.
- 4) As always, we are looking for people who would like to present their research (finished or in progress). If you are interested in presenting, please send us an email at: earths.wsu@wsu.edu. We look forward to seeing you all in the Fall!

Regards,

Katie Bittinger, Jon Dahlem, Darcy Hauslik, Lauren Scott
EARTHs 2014-2015 Co-Chairs