Final Report: CEJS Research Fellowship
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Bound by Whiteness:
Common Ground in Land-Reclamation Movement Case Studies

Originally

Whiteness:
Implications for Anti-Racism for Social and Ecological Healing

RESULTS:

Last fall I began work with my research advisor, Dr. Rachel Luft, and joined the Anthropology, Sociology & Social Work (ASSW) Departmental Honors Cohort facilitated by Dr. Julie Harms Canon. This gave me the support I needed to solidify my research questions and methodology. In investigating my question "what are the connections between the ideology of white-supremacy and land-attitudes?" I completed my reading objectives from the start of the project as well as the necessary background reading and literature review that emerged throughout. I achieved grasp of their theories around the connections between racial violence and environmental violence, and worked through integrating their work with theories of racial formation, racial projects, and the diversity of environmental attitudes. One of my objectives upon beginning this project was to give the theory grounding in practice or current events. I did this in my selection of two case studies of two white male leaders of land-reclamation social movements: Ammon Bundy and the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge; and Wendell Berry and the Back-to-the-Land movement. In the winter quarter, I concentrated on the Ammon Bundy case study as a part of my Senior Capstone course for Environmental Studies. I also completed the content analysis on both cases aimed as comparing environmental attitudes and representations of race and whiteness. In the spring, I delved into the Wendell Berry case study and worked to complete my final paper. The ASSW Honors cohort met in the spring again where we strengthened our skills in coding, writing, and presenting. Upon completing my research I presented at SUURA (Seattle University Undergraduate Research Association) in May, and then at the ASSW Departmental Honors Presentation of Research in June.