

**Seattle University Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability 2016-2017 CEJS**

**Fellow Mid-Year Report**

**Rob Efir**

**Project Title: Environmental Education in Three Nations: An Ethnographic Analysis of Environmental Learning Centers and “Nature Schools” in Japan, China and the United States**

My project’s overarching objective is an empirically informed, cross-cultural understanding of how environmental learning centers and “nature schools” can foster ecological sustainability and environmental justice. I proposed to achieve this objective by clarifying and comparing the goals, methods, outcomes and institutional circumstances of ethnographic case studies from three different nations: Japan, China and the United States. The fellowship supported a fieldwork trip to China in Summer 2016, and it currently supports my efforts to write up, present and publish the fieldwork data that have been gathered for this project over the past several years.

**Activities and Progress to Date**

In addition to presenting my CEJS project on campus in October 2016, in November 2016 I submitted a book chapter based on a portion of the data. The chapter is titled “Nature Schools and China’s Environmental Education,” and it is slated to be published in the *Routledge Handbook on Schools and Schooling in Asia – Special Section: Sustainability in Asia*. The editor anticipates that the book will be published before the end of 2017.

**Plan for the Remainder of the Year**

I have been invited to submit a chapter based on this research to an edited collection entitled *Environmentalism in East Asia*. I am currently working on that chapter and will submit it to the editors in August 2017. The book will be submitted to University of Washington Press, which has expressed an interest in publishing it. This chapter will incorporate data gathered during a final fieldwork trip to China in Summer 2017.