

Emily Wright

(THEY/THEM)

ABOUT ME

I am a transdisciplinary queer educator and researcher. I create and facilitate learning experiences in a range of settings with diverse groups. I specialize in creative, participatory, trauma-informed, and embodied approaches to support learning. I emphasize lived experiences and community-based learning to support cultural relevance and accessibility.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

behavioral economics, climate, community-centered design, cultural anthropology, environmental psychology, human-centered design, human geography, natural resources management and policy, political ecology, pro-environmental behavior, social-ecological systems, social design, somatic psychology, sustainability, trauma, urban ecology

EDUCATION

Master of Arts, Geography, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

2014 - 2017

- Thesis: "The Upshot Of Upgrading: Seaweed Farming And Value Chain Development In Indonesia," a study of environmental and institutional conditions affecting seaweed production and farmers' access to markets and services through national and international development programs
- Additional studies completed at University of Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology, Northwestern University

Environmental Policy & Culture Minor

2007 - 2011

- GPA: 3.825/4.0, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa
- Thesis: "Cultivating community: space and capacity in urban gardens," an ethnographic study of urban community gardening as anti-displacement strategy in Humboldt Park, Chicago
- Additional studies completed at Institute for Study Abroad, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Tongji University, Shanghai, China

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Shared Learning for Public Engagement in Policymaking

Co-designed and facilitated a learning and deliberation process for over 70 Washington State residents to engage in bipartisan and equitable policy making about climate mitigation across lines of difference.

Social-Behavioral Approaches to Puget Sound Recovery

Conducted research regarding tools for supporting pro-environmental behavior, including policy, incentive, and community science, to inform Puget Sound Partnership's approach for investing in behavior change efforts for recovery goals.

Communications for Systems Change in Floodplain Management

Conducted qualitative research on floodplain management across Washington. Used research insights to develop communications strategy for The Nature Conservancy and WA Department of Ecology's Floodplain By Design program.

Curriculum for Addressing Climate Stress among Students

Wrote college curriculum chapter in forthcoming *An Existential Toolkit for Climate Justice Educators* (UC Press) using somatic and polyvagal theories to support students in understanding their climate stress responses and practice regulating.

Embodied Action Course for Climate and Sustainability Professionals

Designed 6-week course to address burnout, isolation, and other workplace challenges by becoming more embodied, connect with community, and reaffirm and center their vision despite pressures and challenges they face.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Somatic Coaching Certification

Strozzi Institute and International Coaching Federation
2022

Somatic Trauma Therapy Certificate

The Embody Lab
2021-2022

Embodied Transformation

Strozzi Institute
2021

Creative Facilitation

Partners for Youth Empowerment
2021

Social Presencing Theater

The Presencing Institute
2021

Participatory Community Design

The Pomegranate Center
2019

Trauma-informed Art about Climate Change Workshop

Facilitated co-creation workshop with majority BIPOC artists in Miami about understanding climate trauma and designing trauma-informed art installations and experiences when presenting climate-related content.

Advancing our Understanding of Climate Trauma & Strategies for Healing

Conducted research about primary, secondary, and intergenerational climate traumas intersecting with oppression-related trauma. Presented work at the 2021 Northwest Climate Conference and Climate Psychology Group.

Transformation from Climate Anxiety to Action Experiential Workshop

Co-designed and facilitated a public workshop using art, movement, and design to support people in processing climate anxiety and grief and move toward values-based action, with artists Jasmmine Ramgotra and Mari Shibuya.

Healing from Whiteness and Cultivating Culture Course

Co-designed and facilitated a 12-week course to support white and mixed-race people in collective learning about impacts of whiteness on cultural identity, repairing relationship to ancestors, and building culture outside of whiteness.

Master Watershed Stewards Program

Co-designed and taught 4 semesters of dual high school and community college class serving at-risk youth in rural, low-income community. It integrated field lessons, local Tribal perspectives, civic leadership and career exploration.

Natural Resources Internship Program

Co-designed and managed an internship program for community college students at a local watershed management organization. Co-developed and taught curriculum, which included seminars, field research, and final reports.

Siemens-Northwestern Sustainability Council

Collaborated with undergraduate and graduate students, professors, and environmental professionals to advise middle school "Green Team" on designing new school gardens and educational programs.

PUBLICATIONS

- Wright, E. *Forthcoming*. "Building somatic awareness to effectively respond to climate-related trauma," in *An Existential Toolkit for Climate Justice Educators*. UC Press.
- Wright, E. (2021). "'Somatic Design': Engaging the Body for Climate Healing." *Touchpoint* 12 (3), Service Design Network.
- Wright, E. (2017). "The Upshot Of Upgrading: Seaweed Farming And Value Chain Development In Indonesia." Thesis, Master of Arts in Geography, University Of Hawai'i At Mānoa.
- Wright, E. and J. Souder. (2018). "Using Applied Science for Effective Watershed Restoration and Coho Salmon Recovery in Coastal Oregon Streams." *Case Studies in the Environment* 2 (1): 1-9.
- Wright, E. and J. Souder. (2014). "Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating (STAR) Communities Report for Coos Bay Area." Partnership for Coastal Watersheds, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Coos Watershed Association. Charleston, Oregon.
- Wright, E. (2011.) "Cultivating community: space and capacity in urban gardens." *Northwestern Undergraduate Research Journal* 7: 41-45. Evanston, Illinois.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Seattle University, Seattle, WA

Adjunct Professor | 2022-present

- Developed and taught curriculum for new course “Environmental Beliefs and Behaviors” to undergraduate students in Environmental Studies and Psychology departments.
- Completed instructional and administrative responsibilities.
- Co-planned Earth Month event with student leaders and partners in the Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability.

We Become LLC, Seattle, WA

Founder, Organizational Designer, and Somatic Coach | 2020-present

- Design and facilitate research, learning, and change toward social and environmental justice with public, private, and non-profit clients.
- Develop and deliver coaching and learning programs for aligning professional work with collective wellbeing and liberation.
- Manage all finances, administration, communications, and project management

Recent projects:

- Puget Sound Partnership | Co-created and facilitated team retreat to build culture of belonging and a shared vision
- Washington Climate Assembly | Coordinating Team | Designed and facilitated 34 hours of learning and deliberations sessions with over 70 residents from across Washington State to learn about climate change and develop policy recommendations for mitigation
- Sustainable Seattle 2020 Board Retreat | Facilitator | Designed and facilitated process to collectively develop a new organization vision and theory of change for current and potential programming
- Climate Solutions 2019 Board Retreat | Facilitator | Designed and facilitated strategic visioning and prioritization exercises at annual Board Retreat to generate 2020 strategic plan

Cascadia Consulting Group, Seattle, WA

Climate & Sustainability Consultant | 2017-2020

- Designed and facilitated program development and planning processes with Tribal, public, private, and non-profit clients.
- Led training, engagement, and outreach efforts for strategic planning, policy, and systems change, including community-based efforts.
- Managed projects, teams, schedules, budgets, and client relations.

Select projects:

- Puget Sound Partnership | Effective Social Approaches for Puget Sound Recovery | Project manager and Social Science Research Lead
- Washington Department of Natural Resources | Plan for Climate Resilience | Project Manager and Adaptation Engagement Lead
- Yakama Nation, Washington | Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan | Project Manager and Lead Consultant
- Whatcom County, Washington | Climate Vulnerability Assessment & Adaptation Plan | Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation Lead
- City of Shoreline, Washington | Climate Impacts and Resiliency Study | Project Manager and Lead Expert
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde | Climate Forest Risk Assessment and Recommendations | Lead Analyst, Writer, and Facilitator
- Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment | Climate Impacts Assessment Tool | Research Analyst and Designer
- City of Pleasanton, California | Climate Action Plan | Engagement Lead
- City of Columbia, Missouri | Climate Vulnerability Assessment & Adaptation Plan | Vulnerability Assessment Lead
- Washington Department of Natural Resources | State Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan | Research, Stakeholder Engagement, and Facilitation
- Washington State Coastal Marine Advisory Council | Co-facilitator
- Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program | Communications Plan & Spatial Data Coordination | Project Manager, Facilitation, and Stakeholder Research Lead

- Seattle Parks and Recreation | Urban Food Systems Strategic Vision and Roadmap | Lead Analyst
- The Nature Conservancy | Floodplain By Design Strategic Plan & Communication Strategy | Lead Analyst

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Geography Department, Honolulu, HI

Teaching Assistant | 2014-2015

- Co-developed curriculum and evaluation framework for introduction to human geography and society course with ~100 undergraduate students per semester
- Taught urban geography and environmental justice lecture
- Responsible for grading, course record management, office hours, and review sessions.

Coos Watershed Association, Coos Bay, OR

Community Programs Developer & Coordinator | 2011-2014

- Researched and designed STEM education, civic leadership, and career development programs for youth, including the Master Watershed Stewards Program and Natural Resource Internship Program.
- Led communications, resource development, and strategic coordination with board, donors, and volunteers.
- Conducted regional socioeconomic analysis using 500+ metrics in Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating protocol for coastal planning project
- Co-facilitated Partnership for Coastal Watersheds stakeholder-based planning effort
- Facilitated inter-organizational deliberations and conducted stakeholder and site assessment to develop Master Plan for co-managed estuarine wetland preserve.

Environmental Design Lab, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

Social Science Communications Design Intern | 2013-2014

- Designed and produced communication products for Participatory Photo Mapping methods to be used by educators and organizers for community-based participatory action research projects.

The Field Museum, Chicago, IL

Qualitative Researcher Intern | 2011

- Conducted bilingual interviews, field observation, photography, and data georeferencing for research on herbal health and healing practices among Chinese, Latinx, and other ethnic communities in Chicago.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- ECA/CAORC Research Fellowship, The American Institute for Indonesian Studies (AIFIS) 2016
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship, Center for Southeast Asian Studies 2015-2016
- School of Pacific and Asian Studies Graduate Conference Southeast Asia Paper Prize, Center for Southeast Asian Studies 2016
- Ted and Doris Lee Studies in Asia Grant, East-West Center 2015
- Field Research Funding, Graduate Student Organization, University of Hawaii at Manoa 2015
- Graduate Teaching Assistantship, University of Hawaii at Manoa 2014-2015
- Student Affiliate, East-West Center 2014-2016
- East-West Center Research Travel Grant, East-West Center 2015
- Distinguished Honors Thesis in Public Anthropology, Friends of Anthropology 2011
- H. Paul Friesema Award for Environmental Leadership and Academic Achievement, Northwestern Department of Environmental Policy and Culture 2011
- Udall Congressional Scholarship, Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation 2010
- Northwestern Undergraduate Research Grant, Northwestern Office of the Provost 2010
- Posner Research Fellowship, Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences 2008

SKILLS

Language

Indonesian (Intermediate 3 yrs), Spanish (Intermediate 7 yrs), Mandarin Chinese (Beginner 1.5 yrs)

Research & Methods

Ethnographic research (bilingual experience), Interviewing, Coding and data analysis, Spatial analysis, Facilitation, Communications, Participatory design, Co-design and co-creation, Community engagement, Systems mapping, Strategic planning, Program evaluation and improvement, Writing, Evaluation design and implementation

Tools

ArcGIS, nVivo, MS Office Suite, Scrivener, Zoom, Miro, Mural, Kumu, Google Suite, Adobe InDesign, Illustrator