

Sam Kaiser

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Education

Washington State University, School of Environment | Projected Graduation May 2030

Researcher in SILVER Lab (Silviculture for Values and Ecosystem Resilience)

Lab Instructor for SOE 110: Environment, Humans, Sustainability

University of Michigan, School for Environment and Sustainability | Graduation August 2023

Master of Science in Sustainability & Development and Environmental Justice, GPA 4.0

Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society Inductee

University of Colorado, College of Arts and Sciences | Graduation May 2015

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies, *Magna cum laude*

Minors in Ecology/Evolutionary Biology and Nordic Studies

Certificate in Eco-Social Justice Leadership

Certificate in Environmental Education

Academic Experience

Research Interests

My research addresses the role of land management organizations in just and sustainable transitions with focuses in conservation policy and practice, diverse nature philosophies, marginalized land histories, and organization evaluation techniques. My methodologies include field surveys, policy and historical analyses, geospatial data science, and the application of justice frameworks. I have applied these methods when researching land stewardship frames affecting United States Federal-Tribal co-management partnerships at Isle Royale National Park, developing decision-based social-ecological systems frameworks for outdoor education institutes, and studying power dynamics in ecotourism in coastal Tanzania.

University of Michigan, School for Environmental and Sustainability (SEAS)

Master's Practicum

- Just and sustainable transitions for Isle Royale National Park
- Applies conservation and justice frameworks to Isle Royale National Park case study on NPS-Tribal co-management arrangements. Methods including policy analysis, historic review, site visits, and interviews were employed to create and evaluate recommendations for Isle Royale National Park regarding Federal-Tribal relationships
- Worked with Ojibwe community representatives to better determine their perspective regarding co-management Isle Royale

Sustainability intervention research

- Research for Associate Dean of SEAS on sustainability curriculum structures at institutions of higher learning, drafted initial proposals for new campus-wide sustainability

- curriculum requirements, presented at campus summit, ran student focus groups, and collected research base. Proposals led to campus forum on advancing climate education
- Identified need and opportunity for Environmental Justice track to develop more capstone research opportunities for Master's students on SEAS-owned properties. Through communication with school leadership, a new wave of land-oriented justice projects are now under development
- Worked in small team developing frameworks for power dynamics assessment for the East Palestine, OH railway disaster case
- Constructed social-ecological system map demonstrating North Cascade Institute's opportunities and risks when adapting to climate change disturbances
- Hosted webinar with guest lecturer on South African wetland parks and community heritage sites

Education and Leadership

- Graduate student instructor for undergraduate Environmental Ethics class, created and delivered lectures, facilitated discussion sections, graded for fulfillment of upper level writing credit, developed decolonized curriculum content
- Served as Interim Vice-President and Treasurer of the SEAS Student Government. Designed and wrote annual budget for student government, approved for ~\$6000

University of Colorado

Research

- Undergraduate thesis on power dynamics and justice in conservation development at the Menai Bay Conservation Area in southern Zanzibar. Analyzed cases where ecotourism programs had been implemented in conjunction with the establishment of an official marine protected area. Drew equity conclusions for ecotourism development
- Independent thesis for Nordic Studies minor investigated the role of traditional folklore as a factor affecting Scandinavian environmental attitudes and contemporary sustainability policy

Leadership

- Served as Director of Sustainability for the University of Colorado Student Government (CUSG). Founder and chair of Sustainability Think Tank, a policy writing team for student cost centers. Still active within the CUSG. Policy from Think Tank successfully directed student gym bathrooms to convert to compost waste streams
- Chair of Environmental Center Board, approved budget for largest campus environmental center in the US, facilitated sustainability grants program, approved \$50,000 pollinator gardens projects
- Steering committee for FossilFreeCU, Campus Sustainability Award for Student Achievement 2015

Professional Experience

Wyzant; Crimson Education; Private Tutor

Online; 2023-2025, 2020-2021

- Tutored undergraduates in environmental ethics, forest fire ecology, aquatic ecology, environmental history, study habits, and academic literature comprehension

North Cascades Institute; Field Instructor**North Cascades National Park, WA; 2021**

- Led educational backpacking trips in North Cascades National Park with high school students
- Partnered with justice program GearUp to improve access for students of marginalized populations on wilderness trips

Open Sky Wilderness Therapy; Senior Field Guide**Durango, CO; 2017-2019**

- Implemented therapeutic treatment plans for at-risk youth and young adults on backpacking expeditions, maintained the physical and emotional safety of the team in year-round conditions
- Developed week-long backpacking and therapy schedules, directed and trained small guide teams in field, led yoga and meditation sessions
- Employee training program focused on critical thinking under pressure, goal setting/time management, emotional awareness, and feedback techniques

Evergreen Lodge; Interpretive Guide**Yosemite National Park, CA; 2016**

- Led hiking trips with lodge clients in National Park
- Brought positive energy to tours while teaching on ecosystem and historical knowledge

Pali Institute; Science Instructor, Counselor, Ropes Lead**Running Springs, CA; 2015**

- Taught middle school outdoor education classes on science and leadership
- Maintained rope courses for safety and organization

Wild Bear Mountain Ecology Center; Program Assistant**Nederland, CO; 2013**

- Assisted in afterschool program with children in Grades 3-5
- Certification in Environmental Education through internship program

Sustainable Strategies and Climate Communities; Grants Intern**Washington, D.C.; 2012**

- Compiled lists of Federal grant opportunities for municipal climate projects

Glenwood Swim and Dive Club; Swim Instructor and Lifeguard**Silver Spring, MD; 2008**

- Led coaching team for pre-team swim team ages 5-8
- Taught public and private swim lessons
- Managed pool safety and ran front desk and snack bar, opened and closed pool

Grants and Awards

Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning Scholarship	\$1000
Graduate Student Instructor, Environmental Ethics, University of Michigan, Spring 2023	\$37,500
National Parks Conservation Association Moosewatch Scholarship, Spring 2022	\$800
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, University of Colorado, 2013-2015	\$1,800
Dean's Scholarship, University of Colorado, 2011-2015	\$20,000
Sarah E. Auer Memorial Scholarship, 2011	\$1000