

I. Summary of Sabbatical

During my sabbatical, I accomplished three significant scholarship endeavors further pursuing my research agenda and contributing to scholarship in environmental communication and policy development. Specifically, I was able to, a) work on a coauthored book, *NEPA for the Environmental Professional* by writing a book proposal to be submitted to Sage Publications this March 2017, completing one chapter and contributing to the writing of a second chapter, b) publish a peer-reviewed article in *Frontiers of Communication: Journal of Science and Environmental Communication* to be published this January 2017, and c) present research at an Environmental Communication Symposium at the University of El Paso, TX, October 2017.

II. Sabbatical Outcomes

A) NEPA for the Environmental Professional Book Chapters and Proposal

This textbook project focuses on the application of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and environmental policy development. NEPA is the nation's most influential environmental law as it provides the basis for informing how all federal actions will conform to environmental regulations. While I am the lead author, this textbook will be coauthored with three colleagues who bring additional and significant NEPA experience. My first co-author is the dean of the University of Utah Law School, who will provide legal insight and case law history. My second coauthor is a resource specialist and NEPA manager with the Bureau of Land Management who will provide agency regulatory insight and my fourth coauthor is a NEPA environmental consultant who will bring practical application of NEPA to environmental projects.

NEPA for the Environmental Professional will be an interdisciplinary textbook focused on practical implementation of NEPA processes as a tool for environmental decision-making and policy development under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It provides not only an introduction to NEPA and environmental policy development, but also lays out a process for applying NEPA as well as managing and implementing NEPA-related projects in a real-world setting. The textbook will be organized in the same chronology that NEPA is conducted and provide a policy framework grounded in the direct application of concepts and process steps to case studies through exercises, worksheets, and role plays, including techniques for project management and strategies for public involvement and community outreach. It will also include the contextualization of NEPA with other environmental laws and international policy development. This book will serve as a core textbook for courses designed to address NEPA and environmental policy application in fields ranging from political science, environmental science and resource management, public administration to communication. Currently there are only a few books focused on NEPA, or the application of NEPA to a decision-making process. There are edited volumes that address environmental policy design and a few guidebooks put out by specific natural resource on NEPA but these books are not textbooks geared towards engaging students in the process of NEPA, nor do they give an overview of the NEPA process in context to application. *NEPA for the Environmental Professional* will fill this void by preparing students with an introduction to NEPA and a step-by-step process on how to manage NEPA projects, regardless of the project size or level of complexity.

My coauthors and I intend to submit our book proposal and chapters to Sage Publications this March, 2017 with a goal to have our book published within 15 months of our signed contract.

B) Peer-Reviewed Publication

During my sabbatical, I was also able to publish an article in *Frontiers in Communication: Journal of Science and Communication*.

Clarke T. (2017) The Construction of Goshute Political Identity: Negotiation of Voice Regarding Nuclear Waste Policy Development. *Frontiers in Communication: Journal of Science and Communication*, 2(2), p. 1-13. doi: 10.3389/fcomm.2017.00002.

This article builds on my current research focus and examines the relationship between political identity and voice through an analysis of conflict between members of the same Native American nation over the development of environmental policy. Grounding this study in the work of Paul Ricoeur and his theory of narrated identity, and using Senecah's "Trinity of Voice" as an organizing analytical framework, I examine communication and negotiation of voice among members of the Skull Valley Goshute tribe regarding the storing of nuclear waste on their reservation. I argue that tribal members' identities are constructed through political narratives about voice (or lack thereof) complicating their sense of self and creating a complex forum for tribal nuclear waste policy development and decision-making. This article contributes to our theoretical understanding of political voice and identity, revealing its implications for nuclear waste policy development. Further, it provides a deeper understanding of the complexities of environmental conflicts within Native American communities.

C) Research Presentation: Environmental Communication Symposium

In October, 2016, I was invited to present at a symposium focusing on development of the sub-discipline, Environmental Communication (EC), at the University of Texas, El Paso (UTEP). The purpose of the symposium was to engage leading scholars in conversation about timely and critical issues in the field, create collegial connections and identify potential research collaborations. My presentation focused on recent scholarship regarding Latina/o usage (or lack thereof) of the National Park System. In addition, I delivered a guest lecture for graduate students who are studying environmental conflict management and collaborative policy development.

Resulting from collaborations at this symposium, I will be presenting at two conferences this spring/summer (Western States Communication Association, SLC, UT and the Conference on Communication and the Environment, Leicester, England) and have begun a collaborative research project focused on engaging Latina/os with National Parks with a colleague from UTEP.

III. Sabbatical Benefits

My sabbatical generously gave me the time to develop my research agenda focused on environmental policy development. Further, as I currently teach courses within the communication program focused in whole or part on this subject (cross-listed with ERSM & POLS), additional research in this area informs my teaching and better prepares me to mentor students interested in environmental policy development and/or collaborative management of environmental projects.