Author/Presenter & Discussant Biographies

**Jane Benson** lives in Portland, Maine. After pursuing a career as a land use planner at the town, city, regional, and state levels, Jane is now an independent researcher focusing on landscape history and settlement issues. She has an MA (Geography) from the University of Chicago. She recently completed a project at the Portland Fish Exchange where she saw the story unfold that spurred her current research.

**Lawrence Benson** is an independent scholar, artist, and publisher residing in Minneapolis MN. He received his BA in American and Sub-Saharan African history from DePauw University, his MFA in Creative Writing (Poetry and Fiction) from Hamline University, and is ABD in Union Institute and University’s Interdisciplinary Cohort PhD program. His research interests include narrative construction, gender construction and socialization, ethics, phenomenology, physical and energetic positions of male Slave bodies and Black male bodies, poetry and performance as resistance, autoethnography, Whiteness studies, and somaesthetics. He is a member of the American Society for Aesthetics.

**David Borton** is a lifelong summer resident of Speculator, NY, living, without electricity, in a tent on the shores of Indian Lake. His formal education was close to the Adirondacks: Colgate University for undergraduate study, and RPI in Troy for his Ph.D. in physics. Between schooling, he and his wife spent two years in the Peace Corps teaching math and physics in Ghana, West Africa. During an oil crisis when he could not buy gasoline, David realized that the sun is the only long-term source of energy for this planet. He researches solar concentrators, he has formed 4 companies that you have never heard of, and his night job is teaching solar energy engineering at RPI. The Bortons live in a passive solar house in Troy, getting most of their energy from the sun for the last 30 years.

**Avi Brisman** received a B.A. from Oberlin College (Oberlin, OH), a M.F.A. from Pratt Institute (Brooklyn, NY), a J.D. with honors from the University of Connecticut School of Law (Hartford, CT), and a Ph.D. in anthropology (expected Spring 2012) from Emory University (Atlanta, GA). Mr. Brisman is currently an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York (CUNY), where he teaches courses in criminology and urban sociology. In the summer of 2012, Mr. Brisman will join the faculty of Eastern Kentucky University (Richmond, KY) as an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice.

**Cecil Corbin-Mark** is Deputy Director of WEACT, an environmental Justice organization based in Harlem. Cecil was raised in Harlem, graduated from the City University of New York and was a Mellon Scholar at Oxford who wrote his thesis on southern Africa. He is a leading spokesman for protecting the environmental rights of urban residents.
Ann Ruzow Holland, PhD is an academic and professional whose practice and research focuses on environmental planning, sustainability, Participatory Action Research, empowerment and organizational/executive management. For more than 35 years, Ann managed community and environmental planning, infrastructure and agricultural development, renewable energy, housing, health care, hazard mitigation, disaster assistance, and facility improvement projects and programs in government, non-profit and business settings. Holland is a Master grant writer, she teaches geography, environmental science and research methods at the undergraduate and graduate level. Ann holds a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in Environmental Studies and a C.A.S. in Administration and Leadership.

Brian Houseal is Executive Director of the Adirondack Council, holds a graduate degree from ESF in landscape Architecture, with an extensive background in conservation in Latin America and the Adirondacks.

Odine Agatha Itohan holds Bachelor and Masters degrees in Agric-econs/extension and Agric-econs and farm management respectively and is currently undergoing a Phd in Agricultural-economics at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.

Swiatoslaw Kaczmar, PhD is Principal and Chief Scientist at O'Brien and Gere Engineers, and serves as Adjunct Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Syracuse University where he developed and teaches graduate courses in Industrial Hygiene, Environmental Toxicology, and Hazardous Waste Management. He is also a Visiting Professor at SUNY ESF, where he currently advises students and teaches a course on Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration, and on the faculty of the SUNY Upstate Medical University Masters of Public Health program, where he teaches the core program course “Principles of Environmental Health”.


Glenn Kendall is a retiree from the National Park Service. There, he was the residential advisor and clinical treatment director for a Job Corps Center. He worked at the Morristown National Historical Park as the Management Support Advisor for the superintendent. He supervised the volunteer and summer youth program, and managed major reporting systems whose data were submitted to the U.S. Congress. He was a founding board member of the Unity Charter School, the only charter school then in the state with a sustainability mission. During the 1980’s he functioned as the New York City Head Start and the Day Care Contract Managers. Early in his career, he was the director, and the assistant director of youth services serving Harlem youth.
Glenn is a Reiki Master and a trained Therapeutic Touch Practitioner. He has been following a vegan diet for 30 years based on spiritual principles. He studied group facilitation while also qualifying for a master degree at Teachers College, Columbia University. He holds two master degrees, one in humane education from Cambridge College, and the other in theological studies from Drew University, with an emphasis on philosophical theology. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Union Institute & University. Each degree includes a major study about residential services and sustainability. A native of The Bronx, New York, he recently married to Concilie Syori of Burundi, Africa, and is living with his wife, and her four children in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has one son of his own, and four grandchildren.

**Harriet Klein, PhD** is a Visiting Scholar of Linguistics at Stonybrook University (since 1998) and Professor Emerita, Montclair State University. Klein works on South American indigenous languages, mainly on languages of the Guaykuruan and Chibchan families. Current projects include a study of historical documents and Gran Chaco indigenous languages; and analyzing the question of whether secular/religious/gender identity can transcend national identity in the field. From 1994 to 2006, she served as Review Editor of IJAL. She is a past president of the Society for Linguistic Anthropology, and has held several offices and committee positions in SILLA, the LSA, and the AAA.

**Hildegard D. Link** is a licensed professional engineer, a doctoral candidate at the CUNY Graduate Center Program in Earth and Environmental Sciences, and a teaching assistant for Weather and Climate at Hunter College. She currently serves as a senior engineer for Consolidated Edison Company where she specializes in investigative engineering. Ms. Link has also served as research engineer for the New York Power Authority and managed wastewater facilities for Westchester County, NY and the City of New York. Her current research explores the relational dynamics of the New York City watershed and the socio-economics of it surrounding communities. She holds a B.A. in Modern Languages and Political Science from McGill University, and a Bachelors and Masters of Civil Engineering from the Cooper Union. She has spent her life dividing her time between New York City and Adirondack Park where she has worked extensively in the region’s recreation industry, most recently as a ski instructor at Gore Mountain.

**Monica List** (Michigan State University)

**Venetia Lannon** is Regional Director of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in New York City. Venetia has an extensive background in economic development, architectural preservation, public policy and conservation.

**Anna Malavisi** is currently in the doctoral program in philosophy, specialization in ethics and development. Her areas of interest are ethics, feminist philosophy and social and political thought. She has a Master of Health and International Development and has worked for many years in Bolivia in the NGO sector in areas of development practice and management.
Ed Murphy Executive Director of the Workforce Development Institute will lead the discussion. Ed has an extensive background in New York State government, workforce development, public policy, management, environment, organized labor and economic development with a special focus on relationships between the United State and South East Asia.

Michael P. Nelson is a writer, teacher, speaker, consultant, professor of environmental ethics and philosophy, and co-director of the Institute for Conservation Ethics at Michigan State University. He is also the philosopher in residence of the Isle Royale Wolf-Moose Project, the longest continuous study of a predator prey system in the world. Michael is the co-founder/co-director of the Conservation Ethics Group, an award-winning environmental ethics consultancy group fusing ethics with social and ecological science. He is the author of many articles, and the author or editor of a number of books, in and around the area of environmental ethics. Michael is called upon regularly by various government agencies and conservation organizations to assist with understanding the ethical implications of natural resource management decisions. He lives in rural Bell Oak, MI with his three cats, two dogs and one wife.

Samantha Noll is a doctoral student at Michigan State University with areas of interest in environmental philosophy, development ethics, and feminist epistemology. She is currently a board member and the communications officer for the International Development Ethics Association. Samantha is widely published in poetry, enjoys kayaking with her dog Turtle and partner Micha, and is an advocate of community supported agriculture. She particularly hates writing in third person but makes sacrifices for academia.

Oladapo Olukoya Oduntan, PhD of Nigeria obtained PhD, MSc and BSc degrees at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Dr. Oduntan is presently a lecturer in the University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Nigeria; teaching and advising undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as conducting several research projects for community development.

Dr. William Porter is Boone and Crockett Chair of Wildlife Conservation at Michigan State University. His responsibilities focus on ecological research and the application of science in shaping conservation policy. He directs the Quantitative Wildlife Laboratory where he and his students explore issues such as climate change, land-use change, wildlife disease and stewardship of wildlife populations. His teaching includes courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels emphasizing the application of ecological science and leadership to conservation policy. Dr. Porter spent more than 30 years studying sustainability and conservation of wilderness landscapes of the Adirondack Park as a faculty member at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse and as Director of the Adirondack Ecological Center. Among his publications in this field is a book published in 2009 by Syracuse University Press entitled The Great Experiment in Conservation: Voices from the Adirondack Park.

Brian Seitz is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Babson College. He has published articles in social and political philosophy, continental philosophy, and environmental philosophy. He is the author of The Trace of Political Representation (SUNY Press), co-author of The Iroquois and the Athenians: A Political Ontology (forthcoming), and co-editor of Eating Culture (Suny Press), Etiquette (SUNY Press), and Fashion Statements (Palgrave MacMillan).
Adebayo Musediku Shittu, PhD is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria. Degrees earned include B.Agric. (Hons) Agricultural Economics and Farm Management (Ogun), MSc Agricultural Economics (Ibadan), PhD Agricultural Economics (UNAAB). Research interests include applied microeconomic analysis, rural development economics, and productivity analysis.

Nathan Snow is a PhD student in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. Nathan’s research uses quantitative methods to identify influences and mitigate human and wildlife conflicts. Nathan has concentrated on mitigating wildlife-vehicle collisions, and on problems associated with invasive species. Nathan currently lives in East Lansing, MI.

Thomas Thorp. Professor of Philosophy at Saint Xavier University in Chicago, has published and presented work on the fear of predation as a formative element in human self-understanding. He is the founding director of Greater Yellowstone College, a program that brings undergraduates to conduct humanities-based fieldwork in the Yellowstone ecosystem.

John A. Vucetich (School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Technological University)

Ian Werkheiser is a doctoral student in the Department of Philosophy at Michigan State University. His principle research interests are epistemological relationships between knower and known, and how these affect our conceptions and treatment of others, with a particular emphasis on our relationships with the environment and non-human animals.

Kyle Powys Whyte is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Michigan State University. Dr. Whyte writes on environmental, sustainability and public policy ethics and American Indian philosophy. His articles have appeared in journals such as Synthese, Human Ecology, American Journal of Bioethics, Journal of Agricultural & Environmental Ethics, Environmental Justice and Continental Philosophy Review. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Spencer Foundation.

Discussant Biographies

Eric Holmlund is the Program Director of Environmental Studies and Director of the Adirondack Watershed Institute’s Watershed Stewardship Program at Paul Smith’s College. His interests are narratives of environmental stewardship, literature, and expressive writing. He earned a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from Antioch University New England, a Master’s in English Education from SUNY Potsdam, a Master’s in Outdoor Recreation from SIU-Carbondale, and an A.B. in English from Dartmouth. He teaches environmental literature, writing, environmental history, and global change, and lives in Saranac Lake with his wife, three children, dog, cat and chickens.

Gary Kroll (SUNY Plattsburgh)
Wayne Ouderkirk has been interested and involved in outdoor, conservation and environmental issues his whole life. He has been a faculty member at Empire State College since 1985, specializing in environmental philosophy and ethics, an area he has researched, written, published, and made numerous presentations about at national and international conferences. One of the founding faculty and co-coordinator of the college's Environmental Studies Program, he is senior editor of *Land, Value, Community: Callicott and Environmental Philosophy* (SUNY Press, 2002) and co-editor of *Nature, Value, Duty: Life on Earth with Holmes Rolston, III* (Springer, 2007). He’s also an avid hiker who has climbed the Adirondack 46 High Peaks (summer and winter) and the Northeast 111. He’s also been spotted at contra, Cajun and Zydeco dances.


Yamuna Sangarasivam (Nazareth College)

Christopher Shaw worked as a caretaker, a guide and the editor of Adirondack Life over thirty years. His writing has appeared in the New York Times, Outside, New England Review and widely, and his book Sacred Monkey River, about the Usumacinta Watershed in Chiapas and Guatemala, came out from Norton in 2000. He is on the board of the Adirondack Center for Writing, teaches writing at Middlebury College, and helps direct the Middlebury Fellowships in Environmental Journalism. Shaw is working on a book about place and consciousness.