

PLACE-BASED EDUCATION CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 2017

APPLICANT:

Jessica L. Thompson

Associate Professor (AAUP, tenured, active faculty member)

Communication & Performance Studies

College of Arts & Sciences

Northern Michigan University

STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION

CONFERENCE:

6th Annual Place-Based Education Conference, November 9-11, 2017, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan. <http://placebasededconference.org>

PRESENTATION:

Thompson, J.L., Houseal, A. & Cook, A. (2017, November). *America's Largest Classrooms: What We Learning From Our National Parks*. To be presented at the 6th Annual Place-based Education Conference, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

BACKGROUND:

This is a three-day conference devoted to sharing scholarship for innovating instruction with place-based learning practices. Place-based learning is a pedagogical approach that engages students through meaningful discovery of their own communities and environments. Similar to service-learning, place-based learning puts the “context” of lessons in concert with the “content.”

I have been actively involved in researching the effectiveness of place-based learning since 2010 when I received a National Science Foundation grant to develop place-based learning strategies about climate change for the National Park Service. Over the past seven years I have discovered the power of place-based learning for adults and I have sought to integrate place-based learning objectives into my undergraduate courses, while continuing my research with the National Park Service.

Most recently, I am in the process of finishing a book—it's an edited collection—with 28 chapters and case studies about place-based learning. My co-editor, Dr. Ana Houseal (University of Wyoming) and I have gathered best practices for engaging students in meaningful learning experiences in a range of situations and contexts. We have been invited to make a 45-minute presentation about our research on place-based learning, introducing our book and sharing key insights at the 6th Annual Place-based Education Conference at Eastern Michigan University.

This conference is not only a strategic opportunity to “pitch” our book, but it is also an opportunity to gain ideas and build my local network for integrating place-based learning into my courses at NMU. Additionally, it is an opportunity to represent NMU in this nascent and growing area of teaching scholarship.

This is my first application for a TLAC conference grant. If funded, I hope that I would be able to share insights gained from attending this conference, along with content from my forthcoming book, *America's Largest Classroom: What We Learn from Our National Parks* with the NMU and TLAC community.

TEACHING LEARNING ADVISORY COUNCIL CONFERENCE GRANT APPLICATION

PROPOSED BUDGET

DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST
Conference Registration (J. Thompson)	\$160.00
Full conference + Short Course - Traveling Dialogue Session	\$40.00
Lodging (J. Thompson) 4 nights in Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area	\$500.00
Transportation - mileage rate for personal vehicle 448 miles one-way = 896 miles x .54 cents/mile =	\$483.50
Gas & tolls (estimated)	\$62.50
Per diem (\$32/day NMU rate)	\$128.00
Total Estimated Costs	\$1,374.00

JESSICA LEIGH THOMPSON

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EDUCATION

- 2007 Ph.D., University of Utah, *Environmental Communication & Conflict Resolution*
2007 Graduate Certificate in Urban Planning, *Adaptive Management of Environmental Systems*
2003 M.S., University of Utah, *Environmental Journalism*
2001 B.S., Northern Michigan University, *Communication Studies & Public Relations*

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2015 – present Associate Professor, Communication and Performance Studies, Northern Michigan University
2012 – 2015 Assistant Professor, Communication and Performance Studies, Northern Michigan University
2007 – 2012 Assistant Professor, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources, Colorado State University
2010 – 2012 Faculty, Graduate Degree Program in Ecology, Colorado State University

SERVICE

- 2016 – present Planning for Distinction – NMU Strategic Resource Reallocation – Academic Task Force
2014 – present National Communication Association, ECD, President (2016-17); Vice-President (2015-16)
2016 – present National Communication Association, Miller Dissertation Award Committee
2016 – present Sustainability Advisory Council, Northern Michigan University
2016 – 2017 Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Council, Northern Michigan University
2014 – 2017 Faculty Grants Committee, Northern Michigan University
2016 – 2017 National Academies of Science Gulf Research Program – Capacity Building Grants Panel Reviewer
2013 – 2014 Chair, Executive Committee, CAPS Department
2012/3, 2016/7 Planning, Budget & Communication Committee, CAPS Department
2012 – present McNair Scholars Program, Faculty Mentor
2012 – present Presidential Scholars Competition, Faculty Interviewer
2012 – present New England Aquarium's National Network of Oceans & Climate Change – Advisory Board
2011 – present National Park Service, Education Committee – Advisory Board Member

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2015 Top Paper in Environmental Communication, NCA, Las Vegas, NV
2010 Best Teacher Award nominee, Colorado State University
2009 Outstanding Honors Adviser of the Year nominee, Colorado State University
2006 Top Paper in the Communication and Instruction Division WSCA, Palm Springs, California

SELECTED PUBLISHED WORKS (* = advisee/student mentee at the time of publication)

- McGreavy, B., Druschke, C.G., Sprain, L., **Thompson, J.**, & Lindenfeld, L. (2017). Praxis-based environmental communication training: Innovative activities for problem solving, T. Milstein, M. Pileggi, and E. Morgan (Eds.), *Environmental Communication Pedagogy & Practice*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Thompson, J.L.**, Kaiser, A., Sparks, E.L., Shelton, M., Brunden, E., Cherry, J.A. & Cebrian, J. (2016). Ecosystem-what? Public understanding and trust in conservation science and ecosystem services. *Frontiers in Communication*, 1(3), 1:3. DOI: 10.3389/fcomm.2016.00003
- McGreavy, B., Druschke, C.G., Sprain, L., **Thompson, J.L.**, & Lindenfeld, L.A. (2016). Environmental communication pedagogy for sustainability: Developing core capacities to engage with complex problems, *Applied Environmental Education & Communication*, 1-14
- *Allegreti, A., **Thompson, J.L.**, Laituri, M. (2015). Engagement and accountability in transdisciplinary space:

- Principles for facilitating a reflective adaptive process in complex teams. *Knowledge Management for Development Journal*, 11(2), 23-43. <http://journal.km4dev.org/index.php/km4dj/article/viewFile/252/359>
- *Lemieux, C.J., **Thompson, J.L.**, Slocumbe, S. & Schuster, R. (2015). Climate challenge collaboration among natural resource management agencies: lessons learned from two US regions. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09640568.2013.876392>
- Sharp, R.L., Lemieux, C.J., **Thompson, J.L.** & Dawson, J. (2014). Enhancing parks and protected area management in North America in an era of rapid climate change through integrated social science. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 32(4), 1-18.
- *Mullen, K., Newman, G. & **Thompson, J.L.** (2014). Facilitating the Development and Evaluation of a Citizen Science Website: A Case Study of Repeat Photography and Climate Change in Southwest Alaska's National Parks. *Applied Environmental Education and Communication*, 12(4), 261-271.
- Thompson, J.L.**, Davis, S. & Mullen, K. (2013). Climate Change Communication Campaign Planning: Using Audience Research to Inform Design. *The George Wright Forum*, 30(2), 182-189.
- *Mullen, K. & **Thompson, J.L.** (2013). Graphic recording: Using vivid visuals to communicate climate change. *Electronic Journal of Communication*. In press.
- Thompson, J.L.** & Cantrill, J.G. (2013). The symbolic transformation of space: Introduction to the special issue. *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature & Culture*, 7(1), 1-3.
- *Schweizer, S., Davis, S. & **Thompson, J.L.** (2013). Changing the conversation about climate change: A theoretical framework for place-based climate change engagement. *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature & Culture*, 7(1), 42-62.
- *Lemieux, C.J., **Thompson, J.L.**, Dawson, J. & Schuster, R. (2013). Natural resource manager perceptions of agency performance on climate change in two US bioregions. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 114(2013), 178-189.
- *Cobb, A. & **Thompson, J.L.** (2012). Climate change scenario planning: A model for the integration of science and management in environmental decision-making. *Environmental Modelling & Software*, 38, 296-305.
- *Beard, C.A. & **Thompson, J.L.** (2012). Engaging visitors in climate change communication: A case study of Southern Florida's National Parks and Wildlife Refuges. *Applied Environmental Education & Communication*, 11(1), 25-34.
- *Schweizer, S. & **Thompson, J.L.** (2012). Landscape-based learning and discourse: Communicating climate change in America's National Parks. In Carvalho, A. & Peterson, T.R. (Eds.) *Climate Change Politics: Communication and Public Engagement*.
- *Davis, S., **Thompson, J.L.** & Schweizer, S. (2012) Innovations in On-Site Survey Administration: Using an iPad Interface at National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, 17, 282-294.
- *DiEnno, C.M. & **Thompson, J.L.** (2012) For the Love of the Land: How Emotions Motivate Volunteerism in Ecological Restoration. *Emotion, Space and Society*, 6, 63-72.
- *Rudeen, A., Fernandez-Gimenez, M., **Thompson, J.L.** & Meiman, P. (2012). Perceptions of Success and the Question of Consensus In Natural Resource Collaboration: Lessons from an Inactive Collaborative Group. *Society & Natural Resources* 25(10), 1012-1027.
- *Davis, S. & **Thompson, J.L.** (2011). Investigating the impact of interpretive signs at neighborhood natural areas. *Journal of Interpretation Research*, 16(2).
- Thompson, J.L.**, Forster, C.B., Werner, C., & Peterson, T.R. (2010). Mediated Modeling: Using Collaborative Processes to Integrate Scientist and Stakeholder Knowledge about Greenhouse Gas Emissions in an Urban Ecosystem. *Society & Natural Resources*, 23(8).
- *Schweizer, S., **Thompson, J.L.**, Teel, T. & Bruyere, B. (2009). Strategies for communicating about climate change impacts on public lands. *Science Communication*, 31(2), 266-274.
- Thompson, J.L.** (2009). Building collective communication competence in interdisciplinary research teams. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, 37(3), 278-297.
- Thompson, J.L.** (2008). *Interdisciplinary research team dynamics: A systems approach to understanding communication and collaboration in complex teams*. Saarbruecken, Germany: VDM Verlag Publishing.
- Pataki, D.E., Emmi, P.C., Forster, C.B., Mills, J.I., Pardyjak, E.R., Peterson, T.R., **Thompson, J.L.**, Dudley-Murphy, E. (2009). An integrated approach to improving fossil fuel emissions scenarios with urban ecosystem studies. *Ecological Complexity*, 6(1), 1-14.
- Cantrill, J. G., **Thompson, J.L.**, Rochester, G. & Garrett, E. (2007). Exploring a sense of self-in-place to explain the impulse for urban sprawl. *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture*, 1(2).