

Vivian Underhill

360 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
(303) 819-6893

v.underhill@northeastern.edu

Northeastern University. Boston, MA

NIEHS T32 Postdoctoral Researcher, Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute

University of California, Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz, CA

PhD in Feminist Studies, November 2021

Designated emphasis in Anthropology

Certificate from Science and Justice Research Center

Advisor: Dr. Karen Barad, Distinguished Professor in Feminist Studies

University of Colorado, Boulder. Boulder, CO

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science, December 2013

summa cum laude

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

- 2021 UC Santa Cruz Feminist Studies Department Dissertation Fellowship.
- 2021 Mural Arts Philadelphia Art & Environment Capacity Building Initiative.
- 2020 American Association of University Women Dissertation Fellowship.
- 2020 Huntington Library Short-Term Fellowship Award.
- 2020 Blum Scholar Research Grant.
- 2020 UCSC Speculative Futures Collective Mini-Grant.
- 2019 UCSC Center for Archival Research and Training Fellowship.
- 2019 UC Santa Cruz Feminist Studies Department Dissertation Fellowship.
- 2018 Hammett Fellowship Award.
- 2018 Social Science Research Council Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship.
- 2018 Science and Justice Research Center Fellowship.
- 2016 Public Fellows Grant, Institute for Humanities Research.
- 2015 Chancellor's Fellowship, University of California Santa Cruz.
- 2011 National Science Foundation Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

- 2023 "The Coloniality of Modern Water: Global Groundwater Extraction in California, Palestine and Peru." Vivian Underhill, Linnea Beckett, Muna Dajani, Maria Teresa de Oré, Sheeva Sabati. *Water Alternatives* 16(1): 13-38.
- 2023 "Outcomes of the Halliburton Loophole: Chemicals Regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act in US Fracking Disclosures, 2014-2021." Vivian Underhill, Angelica Fiuza, Gary Allison, Grace Poudrier, Sarah Lerman-Sinkoff, Lourdes Vera, Sara Wylie. *Environmental Pollution* 322: 120552.
- 2022 "From Kern Island to the Streets of Bakersfield: Logics of Contamination, Embodied Empiricisms, and the Afterlives of Reclamation." Vivian Underhill. *Catalyst* 8(2): 1-27.

- 2022 “Against Settler Sustainability: California’s Groundwater as a Vertical Frontier.” Vivian Underhill, Sheeva Sabati, Linnea Beckett. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* 0(0): 1-20.
- 2021 “Wildflowers and Water: Desire, Joy, and Creativity in Environmental Justice Organizing.” Vivian Underhill and Rosanna Esparza. *Environmental Justice* 15(2): 115-120.
- 2018 “The Environmental Protection Agency in the Early Trump Administration: Prelude to Regulatory Capture.” Lindsey Dillon, Christopher Sellers, Vivian Underhill, Nicholas Shapiro, Jennifer Liss Ohayon, Marianne Sullivan, Phil Brown, Jill Harrison, Sara Wylie, and the “EPA Under Siege” Writing Group. *American Journal of Public Health* 108 (S2): S89-S94.
- 2017 “Environmental Data Justice and the Trump Administration: Reflections from the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative.” Lindsey Dillon, Dawn Walker, Nicholas Shapiro, Vivian Underhill, Megan Martenyi, Sara Wylie, Rebecca Lave, Michelle Murphy, Phil Brown, and the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative. *Environmental Justice* 10(6): 186-192.

Under Review

- 2023 “Colonial Unknowing and the Birds of Buena Vista Lake.” *Open Rivers*, manuscript under review.
- 2022 “What work does “contamination” do? An agential realist account of oil wastewater and radium in groundwater.” *Social Studies of Science*, manuscript under review. Vivian Underhill and Karen Barad.

In Preparation

- 2022 “Proprietary Chemical Use and Regulation in US Fracking Activity.” Will be submitted to *Environmental Science and Technology*. Vivian Underhill, Gary Allison, Cole Mason, Sara Wylie.
- 2022 “Truth, Jokes, and Lies: Petromasculinity and Truth Claims in California’s Oil Country.” Will be submitted to *Cultural Anthropology*.

TALKS

- 2023 “Geographies of Color in Bakersfield, CA.” Guest lecture for Humanitarian Engineering, Colorado School of Mines.
- 2023 “Geographies of Color in Bakersfield, CA.” Guest lecture for Applied Environmental Studies, CSU Monterey Bay.
- 2022 “Wildflowers, Water, and Geographies of Extraction.” Roundtable panel at 4S Annual Meeting, Cholula, Mexico.
- 2022 “Terraforming Climate Change.” Roundtable panel at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
- 2022 “Critical Approaches to Energy and Contamination.” Guest lecture for Environmental Health, Master’s in Public Health program, Northeastern University.
- 2022 “Purity, Contamination, and Environmental Health.” Guest lecture for Environment, Technology and Society, Northeastern University.
- 2022 “Like Oil and Water: Environmental Justice in the San Joaquin Valley.” Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute Colloquium.
- 2021 “Overdrafted Promises: Mandating Stakeholder Engagement and Sustainability in Groundwater Governance in California.” Aysha Peterson, Michelaina Johnson, and Vivian Underhill. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Virtual session.

- 2020 “Gender, Water, and the Frontier.” with Linnea Beckett. (En)Gendering Transboundary Water Governance: Feminist Perspectives on Water Conflict and Cooperation Workshop.
- 2020 “Colonial Circularities of the California Imaginary: A Model and a Warning.” with Sheeva Sabati and Linnea Beckett. Transformations to Sustainable Groundwater workshop series.
- 2020 “Water, Oil, and Environmental Justice in the San Joaquin Valley.” 2 guest lectures in Water Justice undergraduate course.
- 2018 “Fracking, Groundwater, and Toxic Landscapes in the San Joaquin Valley.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA.
- 2018 “Academic (Re)considerations: Non-humans and/as Research Subjects, Objects, and Co-Laborers.” Workshop organizer and speaker. UC Santa Cruz, CA.
- 2017 “Evidence-based, Objective, Quantitative: Science, and How to Critique it Even Though Trump is Critiquing it Too.” Roundtable panelist. American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC.
- 2016 “Diversity in STEM Panel.” Invited speaker, ComSciCon conference, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2016 “The Resistance of Objects in Narratives of Conquest: Franklin and the Northwest Passage.” Ecomaterialisms: Scales of Mattering Graduate Conference. Davis, California.
- 2012 “Variations in Summertime Sea Ice Along the Chukchi Coast since 1849.” Ocean Sciences Conference, Salt Lake City, UT. With Kevin Wood and Andy Mahoney.
- 2012 “Variations in Summertime Sea Ice Along the Chukchi Coast since 1849.” CU Hydrological Sciences Symposium, Boulder, CO.
- 2011: “Holocene Evolution of the Irminger Current: a Perspective from the Southwest Iceland Shelf.” University of Colorado Hydrological Sciences Symposium, Boulder, CO.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California, Santa Cruz:

- Fall 2021 Instructor, “Organizing for Water Justice in California.” College Nine.
- Summer 2021 Instructor, “Water Justice.” Cross-listed between Feminist Studies, Environmental Studies, and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Departments.
- Winter 2020 Teaching Assistant, “Field Study Capstone Writing.” Community Studies Department.
- Fall 2020 Teaching Assistant, “Public Health.” Community Studies Department.
- Winter 2019 Teaching Assistant, “Feminist Theories.” Feminist Studies Department.
- Spring 2018 Teaching Assistant, “Preparation for Field Studies.” Community Studies Department.
- Winter 2018 Baskin Feminist Scholars Program Coordinator. Feminist Studies Department.
- Fall 2017 Teaching Assistant, “American Cities, Social Change.” Community Studies Department.
- Spring 2017 Teaching Assistant, “Feminist Science Studies.” Feminist Studies Department.
- Winter 2017 Teaching Assistant, “Feminist Theories.” Feminist Studies Department.
- Fall 2016 Teaching Assistant, “Sexuality, Science and the Body.” Feminist Studies Department.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND COMMUNITY ART

Written

- 2022 “50 years after the Clean Water Act, the chemicals it regulates are still used in fracking. What will its next 50 years look like?” *Environmental Data & Governance Initiative*. With Lourdes Vera, Eric Nost, Kelly Wilkins, Madison Sonnenday, Sara Wylie.
- 2018 “California Regulators Need to Protect Groundwater from Oil and Gas Waste.” Fracktracker Alliance Blog. With Kyle Ferrar.

- 2017 “Public Protections Under Threat at the EPA: Examining Safeguards and Programs That Would Have Been Blocked by H.R. 1430.” Environmental Data & Governance Initiative. With Megan Martenyi, Sarah Lamdan, Andrew Bergman.
- 2014 “Arctic Sea Ice Concentration and Extent from Danish Meteorological Institute Sea Ice Charts, 1901-1956, Version 1.” Vivian Underhill, Florence Fetterer, and Craig Petersen. National Snow and Ice Data Center.
- 2012 “Arctic Sea Ice Charts from the Danish Meteorological Institute, 1893 – 1956.” Danish Meteorological Institute and NSIDC. Compiled by Vivian Underhill and Florence Fetterer. National Snow and Ice Data Center.

Events

- February 2023 “I am From...” Participatory poetry workshop with Adelante public artists and Arvin residents. Arvin, CA.
- January 2023 “Water Sampling and Water Stories.” Workshop with the Dolores Huerta Foundation’s Youth Program and Adelante public artists. Arvin, CA.
- January 2023 “Toxic Tour of the Kern River.” Workshop with UC Santa Barbara People’s Tour students, led by Julie Maldonado. Bakersfield, CA.
- August 2022 “Arsenic, Pesticides, and Your Drinking Water.” Report-back with Adelante Art Collective members. Arvin Community Center, Arvin, CA.
- Sept. 2022 “Rolling on the River: Environmental Justice in Kern County” Panel Discussion. Mural Arts Philadelphia Art & Environmental Justice Symposium. Philadelphia, PA.
- April 2022 “Estamos Aquí/We Are Here.” Ceremonial Procession and Natural Dye Exhibition. Kern River Oil Field, Bakersfield, CA. With the Art + Environment Capacity Building Initiative.
- May 2022 “Toxic Tour of the Kern River.” Bakersfield, CA. Two workshops with the Dolores Huerta Foundation’s Youth Program, UC Santa Barbara People’s Tour participants, UC Santa Cruz Master’s in Environmental Art and Social Justice program, and Arvin residents.
- June 2022 “Estamos Aquí/We Are Here.” Art Installation, Film Screening, Panel Discussion. Bird Dog Arts, Arvin, CA. With the Art + Environment Capacity Building Initiative.
- March 2021 “Environmental Justice in California.” Panel Discussion for the Santa Cruz County Environmental Action Summit. Online.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NORTHERN ALASKA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER, Fairbanks, AK. Public Fellow, 2016.

- Researched, synthesized, and described environmental regulatory documents for use by staff.
- Co-wrote a successful grant from Patagonia to fund a year-long staff position on just transition organizing and outreach.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, Menlo Park, CA. Lab Technician, 2015.

- Managed field sampling expeditions across California and Idaho focused on mercury contamination in soils.
- Coordinated and completed a range of analytical geochemistry assays on field samples.
- Assisted in daily management of lab maintenance and hazardous waste disposal protocols.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO MOUNTAIN RESEARCH STATION, Nederland, CO. Lead Field Technician, 2013–2014.

- Oversaw quality control, management, and storage of a range of long-term climate datasets.

- Installed, repaired, and maintained climatological and ecological instrumentation towers across a large-scale mountain research station at 12,000 feet elevation.
- Managed workload for a team of five field technicians, as well as logistical communications between principal investigators working at the research station.

NATIONAL SNOW AND ICE DATA CENTER, Boulder, CO. Research Associate, 2011-2013.

- Researched and wrote methods for translation, digitization, and final presentation of two sets of historical sea ice charts, including extensive literature review of sea ice measurement techniques and assessment of quantitative and qualitative error bounds.
- Converted charts into coded images using GIMP software for geo-referencing and incorporation into a larger dataset.
- First author, “Arctic Sea Ice Concentration and Extent from Danish meteorological Institute Sea Ice Charts, 1901-1956.” Permanent Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7265/N5MP517M>.