

As a common thread, my research explores how people communicate and use media to reduce or reinforce the threat and effects of climate change. This agenda incorporates strategic and environmental communication, visual media, and includes crisis and disaster responders whose labor affects and is affected by climate change (e.g., wildland firefighters). Currently, three streams of research articulate my research agenda:

1. To better understand the effects and implications of visual and multimodal framing.
2. To increase knowledge of strategic communication related to human-nature relations.
3. To advance scholarship on media effects and crisis and disaster response, such as labeling wildland firefighters as “heroes.”

The first stream of research both identifies and tests visual and multimodal frames. Informed by over forty extended interviews with wildland firefighters, my dissertation examines how news visually communicates recovery from wildfires. Beginning with photo-elicitation, firefighters associate the concept of resilience with an image of recovery. How firefighters interpret resilience is then applied to news coverage of a devastated community. Preliminary analysis indicates that news coverage stresses resilience over the mitigation of causal factors, such as climate change. Following the dissertation, I hope to continue studying how photographs and other media visually communicate resilience. A separate but related research project, funded by the University of Oregon Center for Communication Science Research, uses a survey-experiment to test the effects of text and visual frames on support for and perception of risk associated with prescribed fire.

The second stream of research explores strategic communication related to human-nature relations and climate change. This stream emphasizes alternative communication and media. For example, a first-authored article in press with the *Journal of Community and Alternative Media*,

uses extended interviews to examine how members of Pacific Northwest ecovillages and cohousing use strategic communication to mend climate crisis. Another first-authored article under review identifies cultural and political meanings in news coverage following the designation and the reduction of Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. In illustrating six frames, this study argues that local news perpetuates conflict between Settlers and Indigenous people over land, and in doing so, impedes the mitigation of climate change.

The third stream of research builds on my experience working as a wildland firefighter for the US Forest Service during my doctoral studies. Using interview data, I will explore media framing of firefighters as heroes with attention to differences by gender and race/ethnicity. Future research in this stream seeks to collect and analyze interviews with journalists who report about wildfires and public information officers at fire agencies who liaise with them. This project could help illuminate points of conflict and cooperation between communicators who shape discourse about wildfires in the public sphere.

Finally, in producing and publishing thoughtful and impactful research, I work to maintain teaching duties, service, and work/life balance.