

# Ecologue

*For members of NCA EC division and friends*

A Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2007

## New Editor

Please submit ideas for articles, news and favorite readings to be used in future editions to: Trudy Milburn  
California State University, Channel Islands  
[trudy.milburn@csuci.edu](mailto:trudy.milburn@csuci.edu)

## Chicago...

Since many of us will be traveling to Chicago twice this year, there are some sustainable activities you might be able to join in...



## Believe Chicago

<http://www.believechicago.org/calendar/index.php>  
Chicago Conservation Corps  
<http://www.cityofchicago.org/Environment/C3>  
Chicago Wilderness  
<http://www.chicagowilderness.org/involv/index.cfm>

## Forest Preserve Volunteers of Cook County



<http://www.fpdccvolunteers.org/>

## COCE

June 22-25, 2007,  
Chicago, Illinois, USA  
**Deadline for Submissions Mar. 1**

## EAT GREEN:

<http://www.gatewaygreen.org/programs/meals.asp>

NCA in Chicago  
November 15 – 18  
Chicago, IL  
Hilton Chicago & Towers  
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## Donal Carbaugh

*Professor, Communication, University of Massachusetts, Amherst*

**What question do you ask when you begin an envircomm study?** This question, itself, is very interesting to me for I have had great difficulty formulating a question, over the years, that adequately situated my inquiries. I had an "aha moment" a few years back when I realized I was asking: How does communication mediate the relationship between people and place, or people and nature? People come to know their worlds through various media of communication and I have been fortunate to be exposed to different ways this is done. For some, the verbal is instrumental in knowing nature; for others, nature "speaks" and all we do derives from that. The relative role of verbal and nonverbal channels is inversely related when comparing each expressive system to the other, and it was extremely difficult to formulate a question which did not privilege one such view over another.

## What/who inspired you to research in this area?

I was born the son of a field biologist who loved the outdoors. So, my father's influence has been there from the beginning. We spent days walking around the woods in intensive family seminars! My research studies have been inspired by social events-in-places. For example, my studies of the Greylock land-use controversy in Massachusetts were motivated by the state's bid to develop a parcel of land that was, in my experience, inspiring, and has been so historically as it was written about by Herman Melville, Ralph Waldo Emerson, among others. My Blackfeet studies are partly inspired by traditional Blackfeet ways of dwelling-in-place, and partly by the sheer natural beauty of the places Blackfeet inhabit. My Finnish work has also focused on nature and how people get to know it, listen to it, speak about it. Each study is inspired jointly by events and the places in which they occur. (see *Page 2 for more*)



## Carbaugh's Favorite Research Articles...

Basso, Keith. (1996). *Wisdom sits in Places: Landscape and Language among the Western Apache*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press.

Wendell Berry. (1990). "The work of local culture" in his *What are people for?* (pp. 153-169). San Francisco: North Point Press. [as well as a number of other works!]

Deloria Jr., V. (1991). *Reflection and revelation: Knowing land, places and ourselves*. In James A. Swan (ed.). *The power of place: Sacred ground in natural & human environments* (pp. 28-40). Wheaton, IL: Quest Books.

Ralph Waldo Emerson. (1933). "Nature" in *The heart of Emerson's essays* (pp. 143-178). Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Harrod, Howard. (2000). *The animals came dancing: Native American sacred ecology and animal kinship*. Tucson, Arizona: University of Arizona Press.

Henry David Thoreau. (1937). "Walking" in *Walden and other writings of Henry David Thoreau* (pp. 597-632). New York: The Modern Library.

Todorov, Tzvetan. (1984). *The Conquest of America* (trans. Richard Howard). New York: Harper Perennial.

### How does your research methodology help you to answer your questions better than another methodology?

My methodology is field-based, focused on how people actually do things in specific contexts. Those are my data. As a result, when I wander around Greylock, or Finland, or the reservation, I am there, partly, as an ethnographer, taking note of what people are doing, what people are saying, and how all of this situates them in places. Without this methodology, or something like it, I would have been less equipped, I think, to address how communication actually mediates the relations between peoples and their places. Often, we listen to what people say about their natural environments without being in them with them. By being there, I have learned things that I simply could not have learned otherwise.

I want to be quick to add that I think there are many important and highly productive methodologies which many of my colleagues use, and I honor them too. All I am saying here is that this is the one I use when doing my own research and living.

### How long have you been researching in this area? What compels you to stick with it?

I started doing this kind of work in an informal way in 1979 when I was working in Glacier National Park and the Blackfeet reservation. This followed my undergraduate training with majors in Communication and Anthropology. When at the University of Washington, studying with Gerry Philipsen, I learned more about doing this work and have continued this throughout my professional life.

I stick with it because I think it helps us address important intellectual questions, and it helps solve some very, real practical, political problems. Some of the work I have done recently on the "tour talk" in and about the Glacier region of Montana illustrates this. I was pleased that Indian Country Today found the work valuable, as have some who provide tour services in this region. (If interested, you can see this at: <http://www.indiancountry.com/content.cfm?id=1096411800>) My earlier work on Greylock also kept me highly motivated, and does so to this day. Both set significant intellectual and political challenges which I enjoy addressing, and hopefully, with my colleagues, can develop.

### What differentiates this research area from any other communication research?

I think perhaps there are several qualities in it that give it a character of its own. One is a detailed focus on actual communication practices that people do in contexts. A second is an insistence on cultural knowledge for understanding those practices, from an indigenous view. One of the findings I have been working on over the years has been "land" and "use": What is land, and how is it to be used? I find the question now, itself to be loaded. A better phrasing for some is: What is land and how is it known?

This simply illustrates that the questions we ask, ourselves, are in need of reflection, for they lead into practices, and cultures, with some premises, rather than others. Being able to reflect upon this process is important for intellectual and practical, political reasons. A third quality of this work is the cross-cultural or comparative analyses. Knowing how deeply things can vary from place-to-place, and people-to-people, this is crucial. Not every place is a rain forest, or a desert; we need different knowledge, and different ways of creating knowledge, in different places. This is a basis for inquiry that itself makes this kind of ethnography different.



### What areas do you see as most fruitful for future research?

There are so many that I feel I cannot do the question justice. All of you reading this have important and fruitful fields to walk, and cultivate! My own special projects at the moment are looking at practices which invite some thinking about the relationship between nature and culture, or spirit and nature. Of special importance, I think, is what happens when spirit is prohibited from entering an understanding of the natural world. How is this done? What does this allow, and what does this enable? I think it is significant that some Muslim scientists, like John Muir, see these as inextricably tied, as do some of my traditional Blackfeet teachers. In any event, I think there is much to learn by keeping spirit and culture in the picture as we seek to understand environments and their discourses.

### Selected list of EnvirComm research publications:

Donal Carbaugh. (1996). Naturalizing communication and culture. In James Cantrill & Christine Oravec (eds.), *The symbolic earth* (pp. 38-57). Lexington: University Press of Kentucky.

Donal Carbaugh. (1996). "Decisions and conflicting selves: Dramatic depictions of a natural environment" and "Dueling identities: In search of common political ground" in my *Situating selves: The communication of social identities in American scenes* (pp. 157-190). Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

Donal Carbaugh. (1999). "Just listen": Listening and landscape among the Blackfeet," *Western Journal of Communication*. Special issue on Place, 63, 250-270.

Donal Carbaugh and Karen Wolf. (1999). *Situating Rhetoric in cultural discourses*. *International and Intercultural Communication Annual* 22, 19-30.

Donal Carbaugh. (2001). "The people will come to you": Blackfeet Narrative as a Resource for Contemporary Living. In J. Brockmeier and D. Carbaugh (eds.), *Narrative and Identity* (pp. 103-127), Amsterdam and New York: J. J. Benjamins.

Donal Carbaugh. (2002). *Landscape, Dialogue, and Differences: Notes on a Tragedy, Language and Communication*, 2, Text of a Keynote Address in the online publication from the University of Turin, Italy.

Donal Carbaugh. (2002). "I speak the language of the universe": A Universally Particularizing Form of Native American Discourse. In David Li (ed.), *Discourse in Search of members: A festschrift in honor of Ron Scollon* (pp. 319-334). New York and Oxford: University Press of America.

Donal Carbaugh and Lisa Rudnick. (2006). Which place, what story? Cultural discourses at the border of the Blackfeet Reservation and Glacier National park. *Great Plains Quarterly*, 26, 167-184.

Donal Carbaugh. (in press). Quoting "the environment": Touchstones on earth. *Environmental Communication*, 1. [A conversation with Robbie Cox.]

Donal Carbaugh. (in press). Cultural Rhetoric, Revelatory moments, and Nature. In Christian Meyer and Felix Girke (ed.), *The Interplay of Rhetoric and Culture*. Oxford and New York: Berghahn Book Studies in Rhetoric and Culture III. 32 pp.

An ethnographic video (available online at my Scholarworks site):

Donal Carbaugh. (1996). *The mountain and the project: Dueling depictions of a natural environment*. Researched, scripted, narrated, and co-produced with Lu Anne Carbaugh. J & A Productions, 30 minutes, 1996.



### Next scholar profile:

*Tarla Rai Peterson, Boone and Crockett Chair of Wildlife & Conservation Policy, Texas A&M University*

# Listserv References

*Several teaching resources have been posted to the ECN listserv this winter. This is a compilation of those separate postings - with additional information, including website addresses, publisher, etc. - organized under common headings.*

## New books and Articles

Sandler, R. & Pezzullo, P. C. (Eds.) (2007). ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTALISM: THE SOCIAL JUSTICE CHALLENGE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Pezzullo, P. C. (2007). TOXIC TOURISM: RHETORICS OF POLLUTION, TRAVEL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. University of Alabama Press

Described as the first book length study of the use of tours as a mode of anti-toxic advocacy to challenge links made between waste, race, and class.

Corbett, J. B. (2006). COMMUNICATING NATURE: HOW WE CREATE AND UNDERSTAND ENVIRONMENTAL MESSAGES. Island Press.

Hamilton, J. D., & Wills-Toker, C. (2006). Reconceptualizing dialogue in

environmental public participation. POLICY STUDIES JOURNAL, 34, 755-775.

Co-authored by Todd Norton and Chris Sandler, is "Dialectical hegemony and the enactment of contradictory definitions in a rural community planning process," published in the December 2006 issue of SOUTHERN COMMUNICATION JOURNAL (pp. 363-382).

Discussion: The Perfect Essay - how to start class to get students interested and "that clearly and persuasively conveys the range and depth of environmental crises facing the planet." (request originally posted by Steve Schwarze, Ph.D)

<http://www.oriononline.org>  
One sample topic - Green Rage: Were the six environmentalists sentenced to prison in Eugene, Oregon terrorists, as the government claims? Or were they first-responders to a planetary emergency?

## Videos/DVDs

- "An inconvenient Truth" - Documentary
- Part 10 of the Race to Save the Planet video series Publisher Boston, Mass.: WGBH-TV. Distributed by Santa Barbara, Calif.: Intellimation, 1990
- Who Killed the Electric Car? (2006) Starring: Phyllis Diller, Colette Divine Director: Chris Paine Rating PG

## Article Suggestions

"Kraft, M. (2004). Judging the state of the environment. In Environmental policy and politics (pp. 28-64). New York: Pearson Longman."

"Climate of Man" articles by Elizabeth Kolbert (2005) Part I-III. The New Yorker.

Chapter 21 from David Orr's \*Earth in Mind\* (1994). Island Press.

Summary of the top environmental stories from 2006 might be a helpful

way to start the new year. Grist published a decent list recently by David Roberts (2006, Dec 22) "We Got Our Kicks in 2006".

Thomas Berry wrote the forward to the book "The Piracy of America: Profiteering in the Public Domain", Judith Scherff (Ed.) (1999). Clarity Press.

Student Essays on Place: Wallace Stegner (1992). "The sense of place", HARROWSMITH COUNTRY LIFE, Sept./Oct., 41-43

Bott, S., Cantrill, J. G., & Myers, O. E. (2003). Place and the promise of conservation psychology. HUMAN ECOLOGY REVIEW, 10, 100-112.

Barbara Kingsolver (1996). "In Case you Ever Want to Go Home Again" In High Tide in Tucson: Essays from Now or Never.

Alberto Alvaro Ríos (1998). "The Secret Lion" in The Iguana Killer: Twelve Stories of the Heart. University of New Mexico Press.

## Websites

Scientists' Warning to Humanity" <http://deoxy.org/sciwarn.htm>

U.N.'s World Charter for Nature <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/37/a37r007.htm>

Jenny Price called "Thirteen Ways of Seeing Nature in LA." [http://www.believmag.com/issues/200605/?read=article\\_price](http://www.believmag.com/issues/200605/?read=article_price) (link to part 1--there are two parts)

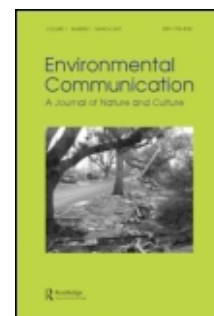
ASLE (Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment) is a great source. They have syllabi that have writings concerning place. <http://www.asle.umn.edu/pubs/collect/collect.html> and <http://www.asle.umn.edu/ASLE-CCCC/Design/syllabi.htm>

## NCA Preconference Wednesday, November 14

Theme: "Under construction: Articulating connections between technology, rhetoric and environment." Co-sponsored by Environmental Communication Division & the Association for the Rhetoric of Science and Technology

This is an exciting opportunity for members of our division to present their work to scholars with a different but related focus. It is also an exciting chance for both groups to get better acquainted. The ARST pre-conference is excellent. It offers a full day of scholarship and conversation on one theme, and plenty of time for socializing and networking. In other words, by expanding your NCA visit by one day, it is like adding an entire conference. Advanced undergraduates and graduate students and/or student-faculty research team are especially encouraged to submit their work! Submission deadline: March 25, 2007

Weblink Call for papers: <http://arst.jmccw.org/pre.htm> Contact: Pete [bsumekpk@jmu.edu](mailto:bsumekpk@jmu.edu)



## New Journal

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION: A JOURNAL OF NATURE AND CULTURE,

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/17524032.asp>.