

# Chris Dunn, PhD

## Areas of Specialization

Environmental Philosophy and Ethics, Philosophy of Science and Technology (Continental), Wilderness and Protected Area Management and Issues, Continental Philosophy

## Areas of Competence

Environmental Literature, Social Science Theory and Qualitative Methodologies, World Religions, Creative Writing, Professional Writing, History of Philosophy, Field Philosophy

## EDUCATION

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### PhD, Environmental Studies, 2021

University of Colorado-Boulder

Dissertation: *A Measure for All Measuring: The Need for Wild Ethics in the Technological Era*

Advisor: Benjamin Hale, PhD

### MA, Philosophy, 2009

University of Montana

Thesis: *Beyond Wilderness: Wildness as a Guiding Ideal*

Advisor: Albert Borgmann, PhD

### BA, Armstrong State University, 2007

Major: Liberal Studies, Minor: Philosophy

## ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

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- **Fulbright Scholar Program (NSF-Arctic)**  
Iceland, 8/2023-8/2024  
*Fulbright Scholar, Project Title: Applying the Environmental Humanities to Conservation Management and Policy in Iceland*
- **Rocky Mountain College**  
Billings, MT, 1/2023—5/2023  
*Instructor of Philosophy (Philosophy & Religious Studies Program)*
- **Colorado School of Mines**  
Golden, CO, 8/2022—12/2022  
*Adjunct Faculty (Humanities and Social Sciences: Energy and Society)*
- **Payne Institute for Public Policy at Colorado School of Mines** – 1/2022–5/2022  
*Contract Environmental Journalist*
- **Pulitzer Center Summer Fellowship** – Greenland, 6/2021–12/2021  
(<https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/stories-changing-greenland>)
- **Nature, Environment, Science & Technology (NEST) Studio for the Arts Graduate Summer Fellowship at University of Colorado, Boulder** – 6/2021–12/2021 (<http://nesticuboulder.org/opportunities/graduate-fellowships/past-fellows/>)
- **University of Colorado – Boulder**  
Boulder, CO, 8/2015–12/2021  
*Graduate Instructor (4 semesters), Teaching Assistant (6 semesters), Grader (1 semester), Undergraduate Canvas Community Page Content Manager*
- **Central Texas College / Dept of Navy**  
Japan, Mediterranean, Southern Pacific, Persian Gulf – 10/2010–2/2015  
*College Instructor*

## PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

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- [Changing Climate, Changing Policy: Subsistence Use and Wilderness Values in Gates of the Arctic National Park](#) | 2017 | George Wright Society: Connections Across People, Place, and Time | Author Chris Dunn
- [Pulitzer Center Environmental Journalism \(Stories of a Changing Greenland + Reports from COP26\)](#) | 2021 | Pulitzer Center | Author + Photographer Chris Dunn
- [How A New Partnership with the U.S. National Park Service could Help Greenland Grow Sustainable Tourism](#) | August 25, 2022 | Arctic Today | Author Chris Dunn
- [Tension and Trade-offs Between Protecting Biodiversity and Avoiding Climate Change](#) Feb 20, 2022 | The Hill | Lead Author Chris Dunn
- [Satellite Data Offers a Broad Array of Policy Insights](#) May 12, 2022 | Global Policy | Lead Author Chris Dunn
- [Dispatches From the Cryosphere: Intimate Encounters with the Intricate and Disappearing Ice of Everest Base Camp](#) July 25, 2019 | GlacierHub by Columbia University's Earth Institute | Author + Photographer Chris Dunn
- [Journey Down the Susitna River Reveals Dam's True Cost](#) Feb 27, 2016 | Fairbanks News-Miner | Author Chris Dunn
- [From Glaciers to the Sea: Following the Entirety of Alaska's Susitna River](#) 2012-2013 | Ground Truth Trekking | Author + Photographer Chris Dunn
- [Raven's Light](#) | 2018 | CU-Boulder | Author + Photographer Chris Dunn  
This photo exhibit was displayed in [Mapping Home/Collecting Truths: Works by Indigenous and International Artists as part of Documenting Change: Our Climate \(Past, Present, Future\)](#).
- [Sensing Ice: Explorations of Knowing Nature](#) | 2021 | CU-Boulder | Author + Photographer Chris Dunn
- [Prior Conception and Inuit Knowledge in a Changing World](#) April 2018 | Environmental Thoughts | Author Chris Dunn
- [The Human Element - New Film Featuring James Balog](#) January 14, 2019 | Environmental Thoughts | Author Chris Dunn
- [Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Character Narrative](#) December 2017 | USFS Document | Author Chris Dunn  
I completed these two alongside the Absaroka-Beartooth Narrative: [Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness Character Narrative](#) + [Lee Metcalf Wilderness Character Narrative](#).

### Works in Progress

- *The Unappreciated Significance and Source of Meaning in Wild Landscapes: An Arctic Case* | 2023 | Under Review in *Environmental Values* | Author Chris Dunn
- *Poetics as an Antidote to the Technocratic Management of Wild Nature* | 2023 | In Progress | Author Chris Dunn
- *Why Wilderness in Iceland? A Critical Assessment of Values Concerning the Central Highland* | 2023 | In Progress | Author Chris Dunn
- *Literary Landscapes of Iceland in Conversation with the U.S.* | 2023 | In Progress | Author Chris Dunn
- *The Moral and Ecological Rationales for Roadless Areas: An Icelandic Case Study* | 2023 | In Progress | Author Chris Dunn

### Personal Website

I maintain a website, [Chris Dunn on Planet Earth](#), where I have included a wide variety of presentations, writing samples, and photographs. One notable example is [Expeditions with Purpose: The Intersection of Adventure Photography with Pressing Environmental Issues](#).

### Media About Me

- [Direct Encounters with Arctic Landscapes](#) | 2022 | CU-Boulder | Interdisciplinary Panel Discussion
- *Graduate Student Spotlight – CU Center for the Humanities and Arts* – I was featured in this [short article](#) regarding my attendance at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland as a PhD student – 2021
- *Denver 9 News – Sensing Ice* – I was featured in this [short local Denver TV news clip](#) about an exhibit centered on my photography from Greenland, Iceland, and Nepal (See [also](#) and [here](#)) – 2022

## CONFERENCE OR ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

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- *Topic TBD* – **12<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congress** – Rapid City, SD – 8/2024
- *The Poetics of Knowing: The Goethean Ideal and Other Alternatives to Technological Science* – **Nature, Thinking from Romanticism and Idealism to Ecological Philosophy** – The Association for Continental Philosophy of Religion International Conference – Liverpool, UK – 7/2024
- *Do Clouds Have Politics?* – **Aesthetics, Ethics and Relational Being** – Annual Conference of the Nordic Society for Aesthetics – Reykjavik, Iceland – 6/2024
- *Sensing Ice: A Philosophical-Aesthetic Investigation of Immediacy and Mediation* – **Ice and Water: Circular Thinking on Cultural and Environmental Sustainability** – Reykjavik, Iceland – 5/2024
- *The Complex Relationship of Sustainability and Wilderness: Illustrated Through the Icelandic Case* – **Sustainability Conference** – Akureyri, Iceland – 4/2024
- *A Case Study of a Wilderness Park in Arctic Alaska and Reflections on the Broader Context of Wilderness* – **University of Akureyri Polar Law Public Lecture** – Akureyri, Iceland – 3/2024
- *Workshop and Research Talk* – **University of Stavanger Greenhouse Center for Environmental Humanities** – Stavanger, Norway – 1/2024
- *Fulbright in the Arctic: Meet the Scientists* – **Arctic Circle Assembly** – Reykjavik, Iceland – 10/2023
- *Poetics as an Antidote to the Technocratic Management of Wild Nature* – **After Earth? Religion and Technology on a Changing Planet** – International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (ISSRNC) – Tempe, AZ – 2/2023
- *Finding and Losing Meaning in Melting Arctic Landscapes* – **Environmental Justice and Extreme Environments** – International Society for Environmental Ethics (ISEE) – Anchorage, AK – 6/2018
- *Changing Climate, Changing Policy: Subsistence Use and Wilderness Values in Gates of the Arctic National Park* – **George Wright Society Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites** – Norfolk, VA – 4/2017
- *A Philosophical Consideration of the Spiritual and Cultural Values of Wilderness in Light of Indigenous Conceptions of Place + Gates of the Arctic National Park: A Case Study of Indigenous Livelihoods and the Nature-Culture Values of Wilderness in Arctic Alaska* – **The Culture-Nature Journey** – ICOMOS/International Union for the Conservation of Nature – Delhi, India – 12/2017

## Other Academic Conferences and Workshops Attended

- *International Society for Environmental Ethics* (commenter) – Allenspark, CO – 6/2023
- *Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Summit* (UN Human Rights) – Boulder, CO – 12/2022
- *Public Philosophy Network Workshop on Field Philosophy* – Rochester Institute of Technology – 6/2022
- *COP26 (IPCC)* – Glasgow, Scotland – 11/2021
- *New York Times Climate Hub* – Glasgow, Scotland – 11/2021
- *Pulitzer Center Washington Week* – 10/2021
- *Svartárkot Culture-Nature (SCN) – Human Ecology and Culture at Lake Mývatn 1700 - present: Dimensions of Environmental and Cultural Change* – Iceland – 8/2021
- *National Wilderness Workshops* (2017 + 2018)
- *NASA Earth to Sky Interpreting Climate Change Workshop* – Spokane, WA – 11/2017
- *American Anthropological Association 114th Annual Meeting* – Denver, CO – 11/2015
- *World Parliament of Religions* (Volunteer) – Salt Lake City, UT – 10/2015
- *National Wilderness Conference* – 50th Anniversary – Albuquerque, NM – 10/2014
- *Kachemak Bay Writers Conference* – Homer, AK – 6/2014

## Public Presentations

- *Expeditions with Purpose: The Intersection of Adventure Photography with Pressing Environmental Issues* – Höfn, Iceland – 2024
- *Adventures by Packraft from the Arctic to the Desert* – Boulder, CO – 2022

- *The No-Holds-Barred True Story of Summiting Everest's Next-Door Neighbor—Lhotse—the World's Fourth Highest Mountain* – Missoula, MT – 2020
- *Susitna River: From Glaciers to the Sea* – Talkeetna + Anchorage + Denali, Alaska – 2013

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

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### **Instructor of Record**

*Intro to Philosophy and Religious Thought* – PHR100 – Rocky Mountain College (2023)  
*Ethics* – PHR303 – Rocky Mountain College (2023)  
*Contemporary Philosophy: Pragmatism* – PHR375 – Rocky Mountain College (2023)  
*Energy and Society* – HASS 490 – Colorado School of Mines (2022 [1 semester])  
*Environmental Writing* – ENVS 3020 – University of Colorado, Boulder (2015-2017 [4 semesters])  
*Introduction to Philosophy* – PHIL 1301 – Central Texas College (2010-2015 [4 semesters])  
*World Religions* – PHIL 1304 – Central Texas College (2010-2015 [2 semesters])

### **Teaching Assistant** (all at University of Colorado, Boulder)

*Intro to Human Dimensions of Environmental Studies* (politics, values, etc.) – ENVS 1001 – Fall 2021  
*Intro to Environmental Studies* (natural science focus) – ENVS 1000 – Spring 2021  
*Risk and Resilience in Society* (Sociology) – SOCY 4063 – Fall 2019  
*Sociology of Death and Dying* – SOCY 3045 – Fall 2019 + Spring 2020  
*Exploring Culture and Gender through Film* (Anthropology) – ANTH 1170 – Fall 2018  
*Capstone—Critical Thinking in Environmental Studies: Resilience in Complex Systems* – ENVS 4800 – Spring 2018  
*Capstone—Critical Thinking in Environmental Studies: Risk and Resilience* – ENVS 4800 – Spring 2018

### **Grader**

*Environmental Ethics* – ENVS 3140 – University of Colorado, Boulder – Spring 2018  
*Existentialism* – PHIL 105 – University of Montana – Spring 2008  
*Introduction to Ethics* – University of Montana

## **AWARDS**

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- *Environmental Studies Small Grant Recipient* – Boulder, CO – 2016, 2018, 2021
- *University of Colorado Earth Science and Map Library Photo Contest Selections*, 2016
- *Andresen and Herbig Scholarships Recipient* - Missoula, MT - 2007-2008
- *Engineering Presentation Competition, 1st place* – Savannah, GA 2004  
<http://www.discoverhover.org/schools/armstrong.htm>

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

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- *Organizer, David Abram Lecture and Workshop* (<https://www.colorado.edu/english/2019/12/09/david-abram-cultural-ecologist-philosopher-workshop-forgotten-intimacy-between-language>), 3/2019
- *President, Environmental Studies and Design Graduate Forum*, 8/2018
- *Organizer, Savannah meeting of Climate Action Road Tour*  
[https://calendar.georgiasouthern.edu/event/on\\_the\\_road\\_for\\_climate\\_action#.W9H\\_2vZReM8](https://calendar.georgiasouthern.edu/event/on_the_road_for_climate_action#.W9H_2vZReM8)), 9/2018
- *Volunteer, Reserva Los Cedros (cloud forest reserve in Ecuador)* – assisting with trail maintenance, garden work, tour guiding, answering general questions, 1/2013
- *Expedition Leader/Photographer/Author, Susitna River photojournalism expedition*  
<http://www.groundtruthtrekking.org/Journeys/Glaciers-To-The-Sea-Susitna-Dam.html>), 2012-13

## **OTHER RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE**

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- **Rocky Mountain Wolf Action Fund** – Boulder, CO – 9/2019–10/2019  
*Colorado Wolf Restoration Campaigner*
- **Nepal Research Expedition** – 3/2019–6/2019 – *Researcher, Technical Climber*  
<https://chrisdunnonplanetearth.com/nepal-research-expedition-2019.html>

- **Society for Wilderness Stewardship / US Forest Service** – Missoula, MT – 6/2017–12/2017  
*Wilderness Fellow (Researcher/Writer)*
- **University of Washington / National Park Service** – Fairbanks + Anaktuvuk Pass, AK – 5/2016–8/2016  
*George Melendez Wright Young Leaders in Climate Change Researcher  
Environmental Anthropologist, Policy Researcher ([http://parksclimateinterns.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/GAAR\\_2016\\_YLCC\\_Announcement.pdf](http://parksclimateinterns.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/GAAR_2016_YLCC_Announcement.pdf))*
- **National Park Service (Denali, Gates of the Arctic, Olympic, Big Bend)** – Alaska, Washington, Texas  
5/2010–8/2015 – *Ranger (Backcountry)*