

erin lorann nuckols

PhD | MPH | MA

E-RYT-200 | RYT-500

(they/she)
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Professional Statement

Erin Lorann Nuckols is a behavioural scientist and climate activist. Her research centres improved decision-making in the present to enable a more ecologically informed future. Erin's recent work is focused on the question: "How can we manifest dignity in infrastructure?" Her PhD dissertation connects a nexus of systemic critique, dignity, ecofeminism, and infrastructure. Her work employs transdisciplinary methods including institutional ethnography; environmental assessment protocols; and narrative interviews with community members.

Erin's academic and community work focuses on the intersection of social and physical infrastructure, capacity-building, knowledge & learning, and sovereignty for the purpose of community resilience. She demonstrates a passion for climate justice in the built environment. Her skills were cultivated from a strong foundation in well-being, equity, and justice.

Erin's long-term research aspirations are to create more regenerative communities by leveraging existing individual skill-sets and knowledge at the community level to improve place-making. Erin is fascinated by the process by which people elect to learn and grow for themselves. She believes strongly that cross-disciplinary communication is imperative in crafting solutions to complex issues and that education is an important tool to support critical thinking. She is asking questions to support people and critically examine institutions. She is deeply interested in inspiring resource-conscious decision-making and enhancing dignity through systemic and structural change.

Skills

Interdisciplinary Pedagogy

Undergraduate and Graduate Course Development & Instruction

Institutional Ethnography

Archival Research

Community-Based Participatory Research

Environmental Assessment

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction

Mentorship

Strategic Planning

Events Planning & Management

Collaborative Work Sessions - *Design Charrettes*

Communicating Science

Education

Virginia Polytechnic University / Doctorate in Environmental Design & Planning

August 2018 - December 2023

Blacksburg, Virginia

Dissertation Title: Alma Mater? Lactation Rooms as a Case Study for Centering Place-making in the Quest for Inclusion on College Campuses

Fellowships: BioBuild Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program; Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation

Committee: Dr. Annie Pearce (Chair, Building Construction), Dr. Shannon Bell (Sociology), Dr. Christine Labuski (Science, Technology, & Society), Dr. Sophie Wenzel (Center for Public Health Research)

Colorado School of Public Health / Master of Public Health

June 2014 - May 2016

Denver, Colorado

Focus: Global Health & Health Disparities

Practicum: Global Refugee Center, Public Health Programming

Capstone: "Risk Assessment: Waste Management Strategies in Disaster Areas"

Colorado State University / Master of History, Public History

August 2010 - December 2013

Fort Collins, Colorado

Focus: Sustainable Preservation & Gender Studies

Texas A&M - Corpus Christi / Bachelor of Arts, History

June 2006 - May 2010

Corpus Christi, Texas

Thesis: "Empresarios, Ranchers, and Urban Dwellers: Irish Influence in the Development of Corpus Christi, Texas and Its Gulf Coast Region, 1830s-1920s"

Honor's Thesis: "South Texas: A Place for Public History"

Experience

Research

Doctoral Research / Virginia Polytechnic University

August 2019-December 2023, BLACKSBURG, VA, USA

Abstract: The policy that governs the provisions for lactation rooms for employed workers only requires an outlet, a flat surface, and a place to sit. There are no national policies that provide for dignity in spaces where people pump milk for their infants. College campuses offer a unique opportunity to assess social and physical infrastructures for lactation support. The research questions centered on the lactation room as a site of meaning making to explore questions of the creation of lactation rooms, the policies that govern postpartum bodies, and the experiences of lactating people on college campuses. Using the lactation room as the site, the research explored the claims made by universities about postpartum support and lactator inclusion (proclamations); the manifestation of those policies in the lactation space (actions); and the user experiences of lactating on their campus (perceptions). Using these specific *domains of knowledge* as a guide, the mixed-methods explored the institutional proclamations through document analysis and informational interviews with institutional employees; the rooms themselves assessed using photos and indoor comfort metrics; and in-depth interviews with lactators. Two universities were selected as case studies to examine the policies and practices of lactation programming and share the stories of lactating people. Results indicated numerous gaps in the connection between the policies, practices, and the needs of the lactating people in this unique ecosystem. Universities have some considerable work to do in overcoming these gaps, including breaking down silos between people and programs in different parts of the university. More work is needed to identify these lactators and bring them into the conversations about their needs as an act of inclusion. Universities can acknowledge this diverse group in their web-based resources, communications, and policies. Future work is needed to continue to identify and fill the gaps in all three areas of proclamations, actions, and perceptions. Improvements in these areas could promote more dignity in the built environment and increase sensations of belonging amongst lactating people on college campuses.

Graduate Research Assistant / Virginia Polytechnic Uni., BioBuild IGEP
June 2023-December 2023, BLACKSBURG, VA, USA

Graduate Research Assistant / Virginia Polytechnic Uni., Building Construction
May 2022-August 2022, BLACKSBURG, VA, USA

Graduate Research Assistant / Virginia Polytechnic Uni., BioBuild IGEP
August 2021-December 2021, BLACKSBURG, VA, USA

Graduate Research Assistant / Virginia Polytechnic Uni., BioBuild IGEP
August 2019-May 2020, BLACKSBURG, VA, USA

Graduate Research Assistant / Center for Disaster & Risk Analysis
2014-2016, Fort Collins, CO, USA

Undergraduate Processing Archivist / Bell Library, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
2008-2010, Corpus Christi, TX, USA

Summer Undergraduate Researcher / Colorado Injury Control Research Center
2006-2010, Fort Collins, CO, USA

Teaching

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Instructor of Record / Virginia Polytechnic Uni., Forest Resources & Environmental Conservation
December 2021-May 2021, BLACKSBURG, VA, USA

Course Title: "Creating the Ecological City, Senior Capstone"

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Instructor of Record / Virginia Polytechnic Uni., Forest Resources & Environmental Conservation
January 2023-May 2023, BLACKSBURG, VA, USA

Course Title: "Creating the Ecological City, Senior Capstone"

Graduate Teaching Assistant / Colorado State Uni., Dept. of History
2010-2012, Fort Collins, CO, USA

Guest Lectures

2024, February. Dignity & Design: A Case Study on Human Rights & Place-Making. GEO 409: Personal Space: Exploring Geographies of Gender, Sexuality and Identity. University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., C

2023, September. Equity & Justice. BC 5144: Sustainable Infrastructure Systems, Graduate. Virginia Polytechnic University, Blacksburg, VA., USA.

2023, April. Designing for Dignity. Science, Technology, and Society, Undergraduate. Virginia Polytechnic University, Blacksburg, VA., USA.

2023, March. Designing for Dignity. Building Construction 5134: Sustainable Facilities Systems Virginia Polytechnic University, Graduate. Blacksburg, VA., USA.

2022, April. Intersectionality & Biophilic Design: An Exploration of nature, social infrastructure, and humanity. Science, Technology, and Society, Undergraduate. Virginia Polytechnic University, Blacksburg, VA., USA.

2022, Fall. Women's Health: Birth Support. PSY 515: Women's Health Psychology, Graduate. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO., USA.

2021, Fall. Women's Health: Birth Support. PSY 515: Women's Health Psychology, Graduate. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO., USA.

2021, Fall. Social Infrastructure & Biophilic Design. BC 5144: Sustainable Infrastructure Systems, Graduate. Virginia Polytechnic University, Blacksburg, VA., USA.

2020, Fall. Participatory Action Research. GRAD 5134: Bioinspired Building, Graduate. Virginia Polytechnic University, Blacksburg, VA., USA.

2020, Fall. Human Dynamics & Social Change: Ecological models and transformative approaches to complex socio-political solutions. GRAD 5134: Bioinspired Building, Graduate. Virginia Polytechnic University, Blacksburg, VA., USA.

2020, Fall. Participatory Action Research. BC 5144: Sustainable Infrastructure, Graduate. Virginia Polytechnic University, Blacksburg, VA., USA.

Yoga & Birth Support, Owner & Operator / LLC & Sole-Proprietor

August 2014-Present, Global

Graduate Assistant/ Virginia Polytechnic Uni., Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

August 2020-May 2021, BLACKSBURG, VA, USA

Operations Manager / Arcadia Foods Mobile Farmer's Market

2018-2019, District of Columbia (DC), USA

Public Health Consultant / Sole-Proprietor

2016-2019, Global

Global One Health Intern/ Ryan Toxicology & Nutrition Lab, Colorado State Uni.

2014-2016, Global

Environmental Program Coordinator / Environmental Services Dept., City of Fort Collins

2013-2015, Fort Collins, CO, USA

Sustainable Building Associate / Institute for the Built Environment

2012-2014, USA

Junior Fellow / Veterans' History Project, Library of Congress

2009, District of Columbia (DC), USA

Publications

Hovey, M., & Nuckols, E. (2014). 2013 Update: Roadmap for Coordinated and Enhanced Green Building Services. City of Fort Collins, Environmental Svcs. Dept. <https://www.fcgov.com/greenbuilding/files/gb-roadmap-with-appendices.pdf>

Nuckols, E. L. (2010). Early South Texas Surveying Records Open for Research. *Society of Southwest Archivists*, 33(2), 16.

**Presentations &
Posters**

Nuckols, E.L. (2023, November 28). **2023**, December. Alma Mater? Centering Space-making in the Quest for Inclusion on College Campuses. [Oral Defense]. Virginia Polytechnic University, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA.

Nuckols, E. L., Wenzel S., Pearce, A. (2023, November 12). Locating underrepresented lactators in large datasets: Can we do better on college campuses? [Poster, Breastfeeding]. American Public Health Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

Nuckols, E. L., Pearce A., Wenzel, S. (2023, November 13). Human dignity & biophilic design instrument: Designing an environmental assessment for lactation rooms [Poster, Children's Environmental Health]. American Public Health Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

Nuckols, E.L. (2023, March 29). Developing a Transdisciplinary Approach to Identify Infrastructure Gaps for Lactating People on University Campuses [Poster]. Graduate and Professional Student Summit, Virginia Polytechnic University, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA.

Nuckols, E.L., Organizer and Moderator (2023, March 13). Feminists of Sustainable Built Environments [Round Table]. BioBuild IGEP, MLSoC, DEI

Committee, VT Women's Center, Virginia Polytechnic University, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA.

Nuckols, E. L. (2019, September 22). Environment-focused Walking Meditation [Workshop]. Chesapeake Herb Gathering, Fox Haven Education Center, Maryland.

Prapas (Nuckols), E. L. (2017, November 6). A Perfect Recipe for Hunger: Land Dispossession, Migration, and Economic Poverty [Poster, Emergency Medical Svcs. and Preparedness]. American Public Health Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

Nuckols, E. L. (2016, May). Categorical Waste: Investigating the Health Effects of Debris from Natural Disasters [Poster and Oral]. Colorado School of Public Health, Graduate Research Symposium, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Prapas (Nuckols), E. L. (2016, October 31). Waste and Health in Long-Term Disaster Recovery: Nepal Case Study [Poster, Human Rights Forum]. American Public Health Association Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado.

Prapas (Nuckols), E. L. (2015, November 2). Owner Perceptions of Physical Activity and Diet in Overweight Dogs: A One Health Approach [Poster]. American Public Health Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois.

Nuckols, E. L. (2015a, February). Owner Perceptions of Physical Activity and Diet in Overweight Dogs: A One Health Approach [Poster]. Colorado State Uni., College of Vet. Med. Research Day, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Nuckols, E. L. (2015b, February). Owner Perceptions of Physical Activity and Diet in Overweight Dogs: A One Health Approach [Poster]. Colorado State Uni., Graduate Student Showcase, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Honours & Awards

Joy & Justice Collaborative, Empowered Learning Summit, Travel Grant	Virginia Polytechnic Uni., BioBuild Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program (IGEP)	2019
BioBuild Fellowship	Graduate Award Virginia Polytechnic Uni., BioBuild Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program (IGEP)	2019
Graduate Teaching Award	Tutoring & Learning Center, Colorado State University	2010-2012
Conference Scholarship	International Preservation Trades Workshop, Lancaster, Penn.	2011
Travel Scholarship - International Trades Education Initiative, Lincoln, England	Colorado State University, Dept. of History	2011
Honors Program Scholar Program	Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi	2007-2010

Professional Memberships & Affiliations

U.S., American Public Health Association, General Member	2015-2023
Virginia Tech., Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation Fellow	2019-2023
Virginia Tech., BioBuild Interdisciplinary Grad. Ed. (IGEP) Fellow	2019-2023
Virginia Tech., Climate Action Committee, Climate Justice and Buildings Subcommittee	2020
Virginia Tech., Climate Strike Blacksburg, Cooperative Organizing Group	2019
Joy & Justice Collaborative, General Member	2019
Virginia Tech., BioBuild Interdisciplinary Grad. Ed. (IGEP) Fellow	2019
D.C. EcoWomen, General Member	2017
Women's Information Network, General Member	2017
One Health Club, Colorado State University	2015
Preservation Trades Network, Board of Directors Membership Committee, Scholarship Committee General Member	2013 2012 2011
Order of Omega, Honor's Society	2009
Texas A&M Uni.-Corpus Christi, Honors Program (President)	2007-2010 (2009-2010)
Gamma Phi Beta, Education Vice President New Member Educator General Member	2009 2008 2006-2009
Future Educators of America (President)	2005-2006 (2005, 2006)