

## Sandmeyer, Bob

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**From:** Sandmeyer, Bob  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 2:57 PM  
**To:** Ashwood, Loka L.; Badurdeen, F F.; Bergeron, Emily; Boykin, Lincoln O.; Brislen, Lilian; Bursten, Julia R.; Byrd, Brenna R.; Cagle, Lauren E.; Caldararo, Jonghee L.; Cameron, Thayne D.; Chambers, Katherine L.; Chassenlopez, Francie R.; Clark, Colby J.; Cliggett, Lisa C.; Diaz, Monica; Doolen, Andrew V.; Eckman, Alyssa A.; Ehrkamp, Patricia; Encinas-Caballero, Silvia; Engle, Kathryn S.; Espinoza Vasquez, Fatima K.; Farr, Arnold; Farris, Betsy A.; Ferrier, Walter J.; Fisher, William G.; Fryar, Alan E.; Garrod, Sarah D.; Gibson, Allison K.; Gillespie, Kathryn; Gonthier, David J.; Hill, DaMaris B.; Hirsch, Robert L.; Jacobsen, Krista L.; Jensen, Robert W.; Johnson, Carter D.; Kingsolver, Ann E.; Kirchner, Daniel J.; Kiser, Emma G.; Krupa, James J.; Leadingham, Christopher; Lyon, Sarah M.; Makkar, Jap-Nanak K.; Malland, Leslie R.; Mays, Alisha D.; McConnell Parsons, Jannell C.; McCoy, Ryan E.; McCulley, Rebecca L.; McCutcheon, Priscilla; McDonald, Juliana; Mooney, Patrick H.; Newfont, Kathryn D.; O'Connor, Kevin J.; Parmer, Richard L.; Peloza, John P.; Pennell, Kelly G.; Peters, Jeffrey; Quinn, Adam; Ravenscroft, Julia; Reber, Dierdra J.; Reece, Erik A.; Ridolfo, James P.; Rignall, Karen; Roorda, Randall; Rossi, Alissa L.; Sandmeyer, Bob; Schatzki, Theodore R.; Schein, Richard H.; Schroeder, Margaret J.; Schultz, Hannah E.; Seay, Jeffrey; Senanayake, Nari; Shade, Lindsay E.; Simms, Stuart C.; Slaymaker, Douglas N.; Stallins, Jon A.; Starnes, Il, Dayton D.; Mutersbaugh, Tad; Tanaka, Keiko; Tedder, Shane; Trask, Michael A.; Turkington, Alice V.; Turner, Helen; Voogt, Ryan J.; Wakeman, Lila M.; Whitehouse, Tanya J.; Wilson, Matthew W.; Woods, Timothy A.  
**Cc:** Brady, Christian; Look, Brandon C.; Petrone, Karen; Price, Melynda J.; Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment; davisr11@nku.edu  
**Subject:** Environmental Humanities Initiative at UK

Dear Colleague,

Over the summer I put together a proposal to develop and establish an [Environmental Humanities \(EH\) Initiative](#) here at the University of Kentucky. I'm writing to you to let you know about this work and to ask if you would be interested in seeing such an initiative take root here at UK.

Nature has these past two years imposed a new order on humanity in a way that we have not seen before. While we here at UK are holding in-person classes, aggressive variants of the Coronavirus continue to wreak havoc locally and across the world. Global climate change has not only generated nearly unimaginable catastrophes over the past few years, but also it is creating a distinct anxiety among our students who will see some of its worst effects decades from now. Any progress we have made confronting these sorts of profound environmental problems forcing themselves upon us feels, at best, tentative. To help us understand what we have been through, indeed, what we are going through, how we can survive and even flourish in this new normal, the Environmental Humanities are more important today than ever. The trans-disciplinary approach pioneered by artists, critical and cultural theorists, philosophers, historians, and humanistic scientists of all stripes provides the most robust and necessary means by which to analyze and to imagine, even, the social and moral landscape ahead of us.

My name is Bob Sandmeyer, and I am Assistant Professor of Philosophy here at UK. I am a founding member of the [Environmental & Sustainability Studies](#) program and an original member of the [Faculty Sustainability Council](#) (FSC). While these initiatives were brought forward by UK administrators, **the EH Initiative that I am proposing would, on the contrary, be driven and shaped by grassroots faculty and graduate student efforts here at UK. This is, indeed, why I am contacting you.**

A short-term goal articulated in my draft proposal is to form an Environmental Humanities Faculty Cluster. Such a cluster would bring together faculty from all around campus who currently work in or have a desire to work in the Environmental Humanities. At this preliminary stage, **I am writing to ask if you would be interested in joining this EH faculty cluster.** To be clear, indicating an interest does not entail any commitments on your part now.

If you have any interest in or, even, curiosity about establishing an Environmental Humanities Initiative here at UK, **please contact me ([bob.sandmeyer@uky.edu](mailto:bob.sandmeyer@uky.edu))**. FYI, I'd like to arrange a meeting of interested faculty by the end of October.

Thank you for hearing me out. I'm very excited about this idea. I hope you also find it an enthralling prospect.

Oh, one last request: *please* forward this email to any and all – faculty or graduate student – here at UK you think might be interested in this initiative.

Yours sincerely,

**Bob Sandmeyer, Ph.D.**

Pronouns: he/him/his

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