

# Ecologies of Entanglement: Cross-Disciplinary Conversations on "Invasive" Species

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**Friday, April 8**

Foster Auditorium, Paterno Library – 2:30–4:00 p.m. EST  
Mann Assembly Room, Paterno Library – 4:15–5:30 p.m. EST

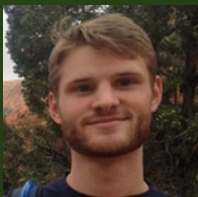
*An afternoon of dialogue among biologists, ecologists, humanists,  
social scientists, and state and institutional stakeholders*



"Managing Invasive Species Across Landscapes"  
– Kimberly Bohn



"The Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council: Creating a Statewide  
Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM)  
Program in Pennsylvania"  
– Kristopher Abell



"Caring Under Compromised Conditions: Thinking with "Invasive"  
Species"  
– Joshua Trey Barnett



"Species Introductions: Management Issues and Opportunities for  
Research"  
– Julian D. Avery

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Humans knowingly and unknowingly move plants and animals from native to non-native habitats. When such species cause or threaten to cause harm to the health of other animals (including humans) and plants or to the well-being of ecological and economic systems, they are often characterized as “invasive species.” One species that has been defined as “invasive” is the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), an insect that is indigenous to parts of China, Taiwan, and Vietnam. Accidentally introduced to the eastern United States, the spotted lanternfly was initially located in eastern Pennsylvania in 2014. Since then, it has been found in nearly half of Pennsylvania’s counties and in five nearby states. Although the spotted lanternfly poses no threat to animal health, the insect can severely damage certain plants, including some economically significant plants, such as grapevines, and negatively affect environments that are personally and culturally important to humans. Given the ecological and economic interdependence of humans and non-humans, it is useful to consider those interdependencies from multiple, possibly synergistic, perspectives emerging from the life sciences, social sciences, humanities, and state agencies.

Kimberly Bohn (kkb29@psu.edu)

Assistant Professor, Forestry

Dr. Kimberly Bohn obtained her master’s (2001) and doctoral (2005) degrees at the State University of New York, with a focus on silviculture in northern hardwoods. She then worked as an assistant (2006–2012) and associate professor (2012–2016) at the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences West Florida Research and Education Center in Milton, Florida, where she taught forestry courses as part of a Natural Resource Conservation major. While there, she also developed an interest and research program related to invasive species ecology and management. In 2016, she moved back to the hardwood forests of the Northeast, working for three years as a forestry extension educator for Penn State and currently as an assistant teaching professor of forestry at Penn State Mont Alto. Dr. Bohn has continued to pursue her interest in invasive plant management, having served as a co-director of the Allegheny Plateau Invasive Plant Management Area and as a council member on the Governor’s Invasive Species Council of Pennsylvania.

Kristopher Abell (krabell@pa.gov)

Coordinator, Governor’s Invasive Species Council of Pennsylvania

Kristopher Abell is the coordinator for the Governor’s Invasive Species Council of Pennsylvania. In addition to helping the council achieve its current initiatives, Kris is working on several other invasive species projects including establishing a weed-free forage and gravel certification program, phasing out the use of invasive phragmites in waste water treatment plants, participating on the One Health Task Force, and consulting on the Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee. Kris holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, master’s degree in ecology and environmental science from the University of Maine, Orono, and a doctorate in entomology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Kris has a love for the outdoors and a strong conservation ethic that fuels his work as coordinator for the council.

Joshua Trey Barnett (barnett@psu.edu)

Assistant Professor, Communication Arts and Sciences

Joshua Trey Barnett studies the rhetoric of earthly coexistence. He earned his master’s degree from Indiana University and doctorate from the University of Utah, and currently holds a joint appointment at the Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences. How, he asks, do we come to feel and to know that we are part of—and not apart from—the earth that bore and sustains us? His first book, *Mourning in the Anthropocene: Ecological Grief and Earthly Coexistence*, is forthcoming from Michigan State University Press. Professor Barnett has also written essays for a wide range of rhetoric and environmental humanities journals. He is an associate editor of *Culture, Theory and Critique*, and he serves on the editorial board of several journals, including *Environmental Communication*.

Julian D. Avery (jda121@psu.edu)

Assistant Research Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management

Julian Avery received his doctorate in ecology and evolution from Rutgers University where he focused on contemporary evolution in recently introduced species. Prior to this, Julian became passionate about the conservation of biodiversity through different positions in tropical and temperate systems. Working for groups like the Wildlife Conservation Society brought opportunities to work closely with many different classes of vertebrates, inspiring a deep fascination for life’s diversity. Julian’s research and teaching here at Penn State is focused on understanding human impacts to biodiversity. He and his students provide data that can be used to mitigate disturbance and help effectively manage wild populations. Current projects focus on the conservation genomics of grouse, aquatic invasive species impacts and public perceptions around AIS, sustainability in the reptile wildlife trade, and industrial sound pollution in natural areas.

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