Stanford



Lauren Oakes

Winter 2027 CSP Instructor CW 104, Continuing Studies

Bio

BIO

Lauren E. Oakes is an ecologist and human-natural systems scientist. She is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Earth System Science at Stanford University and a Conservation Scientist on the Forests and Climate Change team at the Wildlife Conservation Society. Lauren teaches workshops and short-courses in narrative science writing and interdisciplinary environmental sciences, and she combines ecological research with methods from the social sciences to help people adapt to climate change impacts. Her work focuses on understanding the impacts of climate change to forest ecosystems and advancing best practices in adaptation and implementation of nature based solutions. She earned her PhD from Stanford University's Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources (2015) and her bachelor's degree from Brown University (2004) in Environmental Studies and Visual Art, studying film and photography. Her first book, In Search of the Canary Tree (Basic Books, Hachette Book Group), is a narrative science memoir about finding faith in the ability of people to cope with a rapidly changing planet. Science Friday selected the Canary as one of the Best Science Books of 2018.

For nearly 20 years, Dr. Oakes has worked on a suite of environmental issues as a researcher, scholar, advocate, and documentarian (Alaska Gold 2012; Red Gold 2008). During that time, she confronted changes in rural communities and challenges in conservation, such as mining development in pristine watersheds in Alaska or road development through the temperate forests of Chile. She witnessed whole communities transformed by oil and gas development in the American West. She spent six years studying climate change impacts to forest ecosystems in the Alexander Archipelago, Alaska. At the core of her passions for research, teaching, and communicating issues of environmental change is the desire to improve resource management and conservation practices.

In addition to publishing her climate- and forest-related research in peer-reviewed journals, Lauren has contributed to National Geographic, the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, Scientific American, and Anthropocene Magazine, Emergence Magazine, and Lit Hub.. Her research has been profiled by The Atlantic, Scientific American, Smithsonian, Outside Magazine, National Geographic, The Christian Science Monitor, Adventure Kayak Magazine, and ClimateWire, among other outlets. With years of experience in professional outdoor guiding, she has also lead multi-day expeditions for National Geographic Expeditions and co-designed/co-taught Stanford field courses in Alaska and the Grand Canyon.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Winter 2027 CSP Instructor CW 104, Continuing Studies

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Gerald J. Lieberman Fellow, Stanford University (2013-2014)
- Certificate for Outstanding Mentoring in the School of Earth Sciences, Stanford University (2013)

- Kimmelman Family E-IPER Fellowship, Stanford University (2012-2013)
- Graham Family E-IPER Fellowship, Stanford University (2011-2012)
- George W. Wright Climate Change Fellow, National Park Service and University of Washington (2011)
- Gloria Barron Scholar, The Wilderness Society (2011)
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, National Science Foundation (2009-2011; 2012-2013)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (2019 - present)
- Science Advisor, Adventure Scientists (http://www.adventurescientists.org/) (2017 - present)
- Founding Member, Inian Inslands Institute (http://inianislandsinstitute.org/) (2013 - present)
- Member, Society of Environmental Journalists (2015 - present)
- Member, Society for Conservation Biology (2013 - present)
- Member, Ecological Society of America (2011 - present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- PhD, Stanford University , Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources (Ecology and Land Change Science) (2015)
- AB, Brown University , Environmental Studies (Honors); Visual Art (Film & Photography, Rhode Island School of Design) (2003)

LINKS

- www.leoakes.com (Personal Website): www.leoakes.com
- New York Times Green Blog (Author): http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/author/lauren-e-oakes/
- Alaska Gold (Associate Producer): http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/alaska-gold/

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

SPECIALIZATION: Climate Change Impacts to Forest Ecosystems; Human Adaptation to Climate Change; Narrative Science and Science Communication; Human-Natural Systems; Values of Nature

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **In Search of the Canary Tree: The Story of a Scientist, a Cypress, and a Changing World**
  Oakes, L. E.
  Basic Books.2018
- **Forest ecosystems and human values of nature in a changing climate** *Teaching Climate Change to Adolescents: Reading, Writing, and Making a Difference.*
  Webb, A.
  edited by Beach, R., Share, J.
  Routledge. London, United Kingdom..2017: 27–29
- **Emerging climate-driven disturbance processes: widespread mortality associated with snow-to-rain transitions across 10° of latitude and half the range of a climate-threatened conifer.** *Global change biology*
  Buma, B., Hennon, P. E., Harrington, C. A., Popkin, J. R., Krapek, J., Lamb, M. S., Oakes, L. E., Saunders, S., Zeglen, S.
  2016
- **The fate of nature: Rediscovering our ability to rescue the earth** *JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION*
  Oakes, L. E., Kelsey, E., Brody, M. J.

2016

- **"I know, therefore I adapt?" Complexities of individual adaptation to climate-induced forest dieback in Alaska** *ECOLOGY AND SOCIETY*
  Oakes, L. E., Ardoin, N. M., Lambin, E. F.
  2016; 21 (2)
- **“I know, therefore I adapt?” Complexities of individual adaptation to climate-induced forest dieback in Alaska** *ECOLOGY AND SOCIETY*
  Oakes, L. E., Ardoin, N. M., Lambin, E. F.
  2016; 21 (2)
- **Conservation in a social-ecological system experiencing climate-induced tree mortality** *BIOLOGICAL CONSERVATION*
  Oakes, L. E., Hennon, P. E., Ardoin, N. M., D'Amore, D. V., Ferguson, A. J., Steel, E. A., Wittwer, D. T., Lambin, E. F.
  2015; 192: 276-285
- **Long-term vegetation changes in a temperate forest impacted by climate change** *ECOSPHERE*
  Oakes, L. E., Hennon, P. E., O'Hara, K. L., Dirzo, R.
  2014; 5 (10)
- **Where we draw lines: Policy and wilderness** *Wilderness*
  Bloomfield, D., Williams, T. T.
  UNM Press.2014: 109–113