Paul Berne Burow

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Research Overview

My research develops moral ecology as a framework for understanding how cultural values shape environmental governance, climate adaptation, and land stewardship. Combining ethnographic, survey, and spatial methods, I work in sustained partnership with Tribal Nations and rural communities in California, the Eastern Sierra, and the Great Basin to examine how people navigate environmental change and to develop applied governance frameworks that translate research into institutional practice.

Academic Appointments

Beginning July 2027–	Assistant Professor, Energy & Resources Group Rausser College of Natural Resources University of California, Berkeley
2023–2027	Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Earth System Science Doerr School of Sustainability Stanford University
2018	Exchange Scholar, Department of Anthropology Columbia University
2015–2018	Teaching Fellow, School of the Environment Yale University

Education

2023	Ph.D., Yale University, School of the Environment and Department of Anthropology, Combined Doctoral Degree in Forestry & Environmental Science and Anthropology
2019	M.Phil., Yale University, Anthropology
2016	M.E.Sc., Yale School of the Environment, Forestry & Environmental Science
2007	B.A., University of California–Davis, International Relations and Economics; Environmental Policy Analysis & Planning

Major Research Initiatives

MMPJ 2021–Present	*Masonic Mountain Shared Stewardship Project.* Multi-year collaborative stewardship initiative in Mono County, California, testing approaches to woodland resilience and evaluating the institutional effectiveness of shared stewardship across Tribal, agency, and university partners. I lead the social-science and collaborative-governance research within the project.
PiCCA 2023–Present	*Pinyon Community Climate Action Network.* Mixed-methods research program on climate adaptation, Indigenous ecological knowledge, and collaborative stewardship of pinyon-juniper woodlands in the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Great Basin, conducted in partnership with Tribal Nations, community-based organizations, and federal agencies.

PiCES
2024–Present

Pinyon Cultural Ecosystem Services Framework. Applied governance framework co-developed with Tribal partners to integrate cultural ecosystem services into federal and Tribal forest stewardship planning.

ESCRS
2026–Present

Eastern Sierra Climate Resilience and Rural Wellbeing Longitudinal Study. Longitudinal, mixed-methods study of how exposure to climate hazards shapes the well-being of rural households in California's Eastern Sierra Nevada.

Book Manuscript

In prep **Burow, P.** *Good Country: Land Stewardship and Belonging in the American West.*

Selected Journal Articles (Peer Reviewed)

2026 McConnell, K., Mueller, J.T., **Burow, P.**, and St. Denis, L. "Urban Areas in the United States Experience Substantial Wildfire Impacts" *Communications Earth & Environment* In press. DOI: 10.1038/s43247-026-03336-y

2025 Bryant, J., Mueller, J.T., and **Burow, P.** "Rural Populism and Tolerance for Political Violence" *Socius* 11. DOI: 10.1177/23780231251317227

2024 Kanoi, L., **Burow, P.**, Gao, Y., Lim, A., Orrick, K., Singer, E., and Dove, M.R. "Reconstructing Restoration: A Critical Review of the Practice, Politics, and Process of Restoration in Diverse Ecologies" *Environment & Society* 15(1): 23-46. DOI: 10.3167/ares.2024.150102

2023 Zhang, Y., West, P., Thakoli, L., Suryawanshi, K., Supuma, M., Straub, D., Sithole, S., Sharma, R., Schleicher, J., Ruli, B., Rodriguez-Rodriguez, D., Rasmussen, M.B., Ramenzoni, V., Qin, S., Pugley, D.D., Palfrey, R., Oldekop, J., Nuesiri, E.O., Nguyen, V., Ndam, N., **Burow, P.**, et al. "Governance and Conservation Effectiveness in Protected Areas and Indigenous and Locally Managed Areas" *Annual Review of Environment & Resources* 48 (2023). DOI: 10.1146/annurev-environ-112321-081348

McConnell, K., Mueller, J.T., Merdjanoff, A., **Burow, P.**, Farrell, J. "Informal Modes of Social Support among Residents of the Rural American West during the COVID-19 Pandemic" *Rural Sociology* 88(4): 972-1000 (2023). DOI: 10.1111/ruso.12507

2022 Mueller, J.T., Merdjanoff, A., McConnell, K., **Burow, P.**, and Farrell, J. "Elevated Serious Psychological Distress, Economic Disruption, and the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Nonmetropolitan American West" *Preventive Medicine* 155 e106919 (2022). DOI: 10.1016/j.ypmed.2021.106919

2021 Farrell, J., **Burow, P.***, McConnell, K.*, Bayham, J., Whyte, K., and Koss, G. "Effects of Land Dispossession and Forced Migration on Indigenous Peoples in North America." *Science* 374 eabe4943 (2021). DOI: 10.1126/science.abe4943 *Equal contribution

Mueller, J. T., McConnell, K., **Burow, P.**, Pofahl, K., Merdjanoff, A. A., Farrell, J. "Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Rural America." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118 e2019378118 (2021). DOI: 10.1073/pnas.2019378118

2019 **Burow, P.**, McConnell, K., and Farrell, J. "Social Scientific Research on the American West: Current Debates, Novel Methods, and New Directions." *Environmental Research Letters* 14: e125012 (2019). DOI: 10.1088/1748-9326/ab4030

2018 **Burow, P.**, Brock, S., Dove, M.R. 2018. "Unsettling the Land: Indigeneity, Ontology, and Hybridity in Settler Colonialism." *Environment and Society* 9(1): 57-74 (2018). DOI: 10.3167/ares.2018.090105

Selected Book Chapters (Peer or Editor Reviewed)

2022 Johnson, A., Hebdon, C., **Burow, P.**, Chatti, D., and Dove, M.R. "The Anthropocene." In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Anthropology.* Mark Aldenderfer, ed. New York: Oxford University Press (2022). DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190854584.013.295

Burow, P., Brock, S., and Dove, M.R.. "Unsettling the Land: Indigeneity, Ontology, and Hybridity in Settler Colonialism." In *Indigenous Resurgence: Decolonization and Movements for Environmental Justice* pp. 59-76, Jaskiran Dhillon, ed. Brooklyn: Berghahn Books (2022). Reprint. DOI: 10.3167/9781800732452

2021 Koh, V., **Burow, P.**, Kanoi, L., and Dove, M.R. "Locating the 'Rural' in Anthropology." In *The SAGE Handbook of Cultural Anthropology.* Lene Pedersen and Lisa Cliggett, eds. pp. 296-310. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publishers (2021). DOI: 10.4135/9781529756449

2020 **Burow, P.** "Nature's Belonging: Landscapes, Conservation and the Cultural Politics of Place in the Great Basin." In *Public Lands in the Western U.S.: Place and Politics in the Clash between Public and Private*, K. Sullivan and J. McDonald, eds. pp. 175-197. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books (2020). ISBN 978-1-7936-3707-9

Burow P., Brock, S., and Dove, M.R. "Land, Indigeneity, and Hybrid Ontologies." In *Living Earth Community: Multiple Ways of Being and Knowing.* S. Mickey, M. Tucker, and J. Grim, eds. Cambridge: Open Book Publishers, pp 193-202 (2020). DOI: 10.11647/OBP.0186

2019 Dove, M.R., Johnson, A., Lefebvre, M., **Burow, P.**, Zhou, W., and Kanoi, L. "Who is in the Commons: Defining Community, Commons, and Time in Long-term Natural Resource Management" In *Global Perspectives in Long Term Community Research Management* Lozny, L.R. and McGovern, T.H., eds. Cham, Switzerland, Springer, pp. 23-40 (2019). DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-15800-2_3

Selected Policy Reports and Technical Documents

2021 Mueller, J.T., Farrell, J., McConnell, K., and **Burow, P.** "COVID-19 and Poverty in Rural Areas: the Experience of the United States." Prepared for the United Nations Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, 2018-2027 (2021). Link

2020 Farrell, J., Mueller, J.T., McConnell, K., **Burow, P.**, Pofahl, K., Merdjanoff, A. A. "Impact of Covid-19 on the Rural West: Material Needs, Economic Recovery, and Changes in Political Attitudes. Executive Summary of Research Findings." New Haven, CT: Yale School of the Environment (2020).

Public-Facing Writing

2021 **Burow, P.** "Burning Through History in California's 'Asbestos' Forests." *Hot Spots: Fieldsights.* Society for Cultural Anthropology. July 27, 2021. Link

2020 Farrell, J., McConnell, K., and **Burow, P.** "The Pandemic Hit Rural America and Changed Its Attitudes About Government." *Barron's.* October 8, 2020. Link

2017 **Burow, P.** "Wildlife Conservation and Settler Colonialism in the North American West." *Engagement: A Blog of the Anthropology & Environment Society.* March 28, 2017. Link

Selected Research Grants

2024 Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant, "Sweetwater Forest Resilience Project," Co-Investigator; PI: Alexandra Urza, Rocky Mountain Research Station, USDA Forest Service. Sierra Nevada Conservancy. 2022-2026 [Subaward: 2024-2026].

2023 NIFA Postdoctoral Fellowship, "Social Dimensions and Institutional Effectiveness of Collaborative Stewardship with Tribal Nations of a Forest Agroecosystem in California," Principal Investigator, USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture. 2023-2025.

Climate Action Seed Grant, "Improving Social-Ecological Resilience of California Dryland Forest Agroecosystems to Climate Change," Co-Investigator; PI: Miranda Redmond, UC Berkeley; Co-PI: Gabrielle Wong-Parodi, Stanford University, University of California Office of the President, Climate Action Research Initiative. 2023-2026.

2021 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, "The Ecology of Belonging: Settler Colonialism and the Cultural Politics of Environmental Change in the Great Basin," Principal Investigator, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. 2021-2022.

2020 NIFA Predoctoral Fellowship, "Social Impacts of Agricultural and Environmental Change on Rural Communities in Nevada and California," Principal Investigator, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Climate Change Research Initiative. 2020-2023.

Selected Awards and Fellowships

2026 Community Engaged Science Award, Department of Earth System Science, Doerr School of Sustainability, Stanford University.

2022 Arthur J. Quinn Memorial Fellowship, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

2021 John F. Enders Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Yale University.

2019 MacMillan International Dissertation Research Fellowship, The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International & Area Studies, Yale University.

Selected Invited Talks

2026 **Burow, P.** "What Makes Climate Adaptation Equitable? Moral Ecology, Cultural Values, and Land Governance in California." ERG Spring Colloquium, Energy & Resources Group, Rausser College of Natural Resources, University of California–Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, April 14, 2026.

2025 **Burow, P.** "The Ecology of Wellbeing: Sustaining and Revitalizing the Relationships between People, Land and Place." Seminar, School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, WI, December 18, 2025.

Burow, P. "The Moral Ecology of a Forest: Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Values in Collaborative Land Stewardship." Department Seminar, Department of Forest Ecosystems & Society, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, February 19, 2025.

Burow, P. "The Ecology of Belonging: Land Stewardship and Environmental Change in the Great Basin." Proseminar, Department of Anthropology, University of Nevada–Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV, February 10, 2025.

2024 **Burow, P.** "The Ecology of Belonging: Land Stewardship and Environmental Change in the Great Basin." Department Seminar, Department of Environment & Society, Utah State University, Logan, UT, December 12, 2024.

Burow, P. "The Ecology of Belonging: Climate Change, Settler Colonialism, and More-than-Human Mobility in the North American West." Department Seminar, Department of Anthropology, University of California–Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA, January 25, 2024.

Teaching Experience

Stanford University

2024-2025 **Eastern Sierra Land & Community Survey.** Intensive summer field school in community-engaged social science research methods, in partnership with Tribal Nations and rural communities of the Eastern Sierra Nevada.

Yale University

2015–2018 Teaching Fellow for graduate and undergraduate courses in environmental social science, the North American West, conservation and development, policy implementation, and American environmental history, with Justin Farrell, Carol Carpenter, and Paul Sabin.

Mentoring and Advising

Doctoral Committees

2024-Present Committee Member for PhD student in Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment & Resources, Doerr School of Sustainability, Stanford University.

Undergraduate and Graduate Mentoring

2018-Present Mentor to 6 doctoral, 4 master's, and 16 undergraduate students, including research assistants on sponsored projects and Eastern Sierra Land & Community Survey field school participants.

Community-Engaged Research

Sustained community-engaged research partnerships with Tribal Nations, land trusts, community-based organizations, and federal and state agencies in California's Eastern Sierra Nevada and the Great Basin, supporting collaborative climate adaptation, forest stewardship, and the protection of cultural landscapes.

Service

Conference and Workshop Organization

Co-organizer, Eastern Sierra Stewardship Summit, Bishop, CA, September 2025. Convening of Tribal Nations, federal and state agencies, land trusts, and researchers to advance collaborative stewardship of pinyon-juniper woodlands in the Eastern Sierra Nevada.

Panel organizer, "Collaborative and Community-Based Stewardship of Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands in the Great Basin," Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnobiology, Lake Tahoe, NV, May 2025.

Manuscript Review

Journal of Political Ecology, *Nature Sustainability*, *Economic Anthropology*, *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*, *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*

Professional Memberships

American Anthropological Association, *American Association of Geographers*, *Native American and Indigenous Studies Association*, *Society of Ethnobiology*