

Steven Pavlos Holmes, Ph.D.

Independent Scholar in the Environmental Humanities

21 Eldridge Rd., Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts 02130

617-285-2832 / stevenpavlosholmes@gmx.com

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Harvard University (Cambridge, MA), History of American Civilization 1996
Dissertation: "Blessed Home: Nature, Science, Religion, and Human Relationship in the Early Life of John Muir" (advisors: Lawrence Buell and David D. Hall)
- M.T.S., Harvard Divinity School (Cambridge, MA), Religious Studies 1987
- M.A., University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame, IN), Philosophy 1983
- B.A., Concordia College (Moorhead, MN), Philosophy, Mathematics 1982

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- Boston Nature Center/Mass Audubon, Scholar-in-Residence 2011-2013, 2016–2021
*Lead collaborator on "A Healing Landscape: Environmental and Social History of the Site of the Boston Nature Center" and other projects in the environmental humanities
- Babson College, Wellesley, MA fall 2017
*Adjunct Faculty, "Nature and U.S. Cultural Values"
- Freelance Copyeditor, Proofreader, and Research Assistant 1995–2015
*Editorial and scholarly services for publishers and authors
- The Sea Stories Project/Blue Ocean Institute, Editor/Creative Consultant 2004-2009
*Cofounder, editor, and manager of an online journal of ocean writing and art
- Harvard Extension School, Adjunct Instructor 2000–2005
*Lecture courses in American environmental history, biography, and literature
- Maine Voices Project/The Wilderness Society, Creative Consultant/Editor 2002-2004
*Helped conceive and execute a public environmental writing project in Maine
- Cambridge (Mass.) Center for Adult Education, Adjunct Instructor 1999–2003
*Environmental autobiography writing courses
- Harvard College, Adjunct Instructor, various departments 1991–2000
*Individual and group tutorials, freshman seminars, thesis and independent study advising, and teaching fellow on various topics in American environmental and cultural history
- Syracuse University Press, Editorial Assistant 1994–95

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship Research project on John Muir's middle years, 1872-1890	2003
Modern Language Association Prize for Independent Scholars For <i>The Young John Muir: An Environmental Biography</i>	1999
Francis Clark Wood Institute for the History of Medicine, Research Fellowship Research on stuttering treatment in nineteenth-century Philadelphia	1997
Helen Choate Bell Prize For the best Harvard dissertation on a subject in American literary studies	1996
Lilly Foundation Research seminar on Protestantism and American culture, Harvard University	1987–88, 1990–94
John R. O'Brien Fellowship in Philosophy, University of Notre Dame	1982–83

PUBLICATIONS

Authored Books

<i>A Healing Landscape: Environmental and Social History of the Site of Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center</i> (Lincoln, Mass.: Mass Audubon)	2016 (Second Edition) 2013 (First Edition)
<i>The Young John Muir: An Environmental Biography</i> (Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Press)	1999

Edited Collections

<i>Facing the Change: Personal Encounters with Global Warming</i> (Salt Lake City: Torrey House Press)	2013
<i>Maine Voices: A Celebration of the People of Maine and the Places They Love</i> , coedited with Jeremy Schaeffer and Sarah Cecil (Washington, D.C.: The Wilderness Society)	2004

Articles and Book Chapters

"George Bucknam Dorr: Brief life of a Persistent Conservationist: 1853-1944," <i>Harvard Magazine</i> (Sept. –Oct.)	2016
"Early California Nature Writers," in <i>A History of California Literature</i> , ed. Blake Allmendinger (New York: Cambridge University Press)	2015

- "John Muir: Brief Life of a Scottish American Conservationist, 1838-1914," *Harvard Magazine* (Nov.–Dec.) 2014
- "Autobiography" and "Muir, John," articles for the *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*, Bron Taylor and Jeffrey Kaplan, general editors (New York: Continuum International) 2005
- Book review: Dennis C. Williams, *God's Wilds: John Muir's Vision of Nature*, in *Isis: Journal of the History of Science Society* (September) 2005
- Book review: Larry J. Anderson, *Benton MacKaye: Conservationist, Planner, and Creator of the Appalachian Trail*, in *Environmental History* (October) 2004
- "Some Lives and Some Places," in *Identity and the Natural Environment: The Psychological Significance of Nature*, ed. Susan Clayton and Susan Opatow (Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press) 2003
- "Why Read Wolfe Today?," preface to new edition of Linnie Marsh Wolfe, *Son of the Wilderness: The Life of John Muir* (Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Press) 2003
- "Rethinking John Muir's First Summer in Yosemite," in *John Muir in Historical Perspective*, ed. Sally M. Miller (New York: Peter Lang) 1999
- "Place Making, Sacred and Erotic: John Muir and a Mountain Meadow," *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 81, no. 3–4 (fall/winter): 397–412 1998
- Book review: *John Muir's "Stickeen" and the Lessons of Nature* by Ronald H. Limbaugh, *Journal of American History* (June): 263–64 1998
- "John Muir, Jeanne Carr, and Ralph Waldo Emerson: A Case-study of the Varieties of Transcendental Influence," *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History* 23: 1–25 1998

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- "Engaging Students through First-Person Climate Stories," seminar paper at annual meeting of the Northeast Modern Language Association, Hartford, CT March 2016
- "Muir's Cultural Legacy: Science and Storytelling from 'The California Alps' to Climate Change Communication," paper at the scholarly/public symposium John Muir's Legacy, 1914-2014, University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA March 2014
- "Nurturing Stories from the Grassroots: Environmental Public Writing Projects," poster at the symposium Lifeways and Greenways, Chicago Botanic Garden, IL October 2011
- "Environmental Autobiography," invited writing workshops at the NEW-CUE Conference in Honor of Rachel Carson, Boothbay Harbor, ME June 2001, 2002, 2006

- "Fostering Public Voices: Environmental Writing Projects in School and Community," workshop at the NEW-CUE Conference in Honor of Rachel Carson, Boothbay Harbor, ME *June 2004*
- "Environmental Life-Writing in Classroom and Community," panel co-organizer (with Cynthia J. Miller) and paper presenter at the biennial meeting of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Boston, MA *June 2003*
- "Creativity in Personal and Environmental Histories, I and II," two-part panel co-organizer (with Cynthia J. Miller) and paper presenter at the annual meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, Providence, RI *March 2003*
- "The psychology of generativity in John Muir's middle years," paper at the annual meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, Providence, RI *March 2003*
- "Maine Voices Project," day-long series of presentations to grades 1 through 12 of the North Haven Community School and to an open public meeting, North Haven, ME *March 2003*
- "Cultivating a Public Sense of Place Outside the Academy," panel organizer and presenter at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association, Washington, DC *November 2001*
- "Imagination and Reality in Childhood Environmental Experience," panel organizer and presenter at the conference ReWriting Landscapes: Imagination and Urban Environments, Chatham College, Pittsburgh, PA *June 2001*
- "Environmental Biography," organizer and facilitator of breakfast discussion groups at meetings of the American Society for Environmental History *2001, 2000, and 1999*
- "Environmental Life-Writing: In the Classroom and Beyond," co-leader of workshop at meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, Durham, NC *March 2001*
- "International Environmental Biography: Perspectives and Prospects," panel commentator at annual meeting of American Society for Environmental History, Tacoma, WA *March 2000*
- "Environmental Life-Writing: Definition, Examples, Principles," paper at the biennial meeting of Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Kalamazoo, MI *June 1999*
- "Nature Study and the Holy Earth: Liberty Hyde Bailey, Religion, and Popular Science in the Early Twentieth Century," paper at biennial meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, Tucson, AZ *April 1999*
- "John Muir's Religious Vision of Nature as Home" and "Nature Spirituality in Cultural and Psychological Context," papers at annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA *November 1997*
- "Elocution and the Nonmedicalization of Stuttering in 19-c. America," paper at annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Williamsburg, VA *April 1997*

"Botany as Science, Religion, and Rhetoric in the Early Life of John Muir," paper presenter, and "Christianity and Environmentalism," panel chair and commentator, at the biennial meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, Baltimore *March 1997*

"Rethinking Muir's First Summer in Yosemite," paper at the conference John Muir in Historical Perspective, University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA *April 1996*

CLASSROOM VISITS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

"'Meaningful Work' in the Environmental Humanities," *November 2017, 2016*
visiting scholar in seminar "The Nature of Spirituality," Prof. Cynthia Baker,
Bates College, Lewiston, MA

A Healing Landscape, Second Edition, public lecture and discussion, *October 2016*
Boston Nature Center, MA

"Personal Meanings in Environmental History," visiting scholar *March 2016*
in course "Environmental Anthropology," Prof. Jose Martinez-Reyes,
University of Massachusetts–Boston, Boston, MA

Banville Family Endowed Lectureship, Ripon College, Ripon, WI *April 2014*
Classroom and public presentations on John Muir and on *A Healing Landscape*

Facing the Change reading and discussion, Boston Nature Center, Boston, MA *December 2013*

A Healing Landscape reading and discussion, Boston Nature Center, MA *February 2013*

OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

Manuscript and proposal reviewer for various academic presses *occasional*

Creator and moderator, the ELF list *active 1999–2001*
*E-mail list facilitating interdisciplinary discussion and networking between scholars, writers,
and educators interested in the field of environmental life-writing

Member/supporter of environmental and cultural organizations: Massachusetts Audubon,
Environment Massachusetts, Sierra Club, United Farm Workers, NPR, PBS, etc..

Travel, birdwatching, and outdoor recreation in North America, Europe, and India