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University of Southern Indiana Center for Communal Studies  
Annual Report, 2021-2022  
May 11, 2022, at 11am

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<https://usi.zoom.us/j/95819962130>; Meeting ID: 958 1996 2130

#### Director

Silvia Rode (Professor of German and Assistant Dean College of Liberal Arts, USI); position carries no reassignment time.

#### Administrative assistant

Ms. Caitlyn Woolsey (Dr. Melinda Roberts, Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts approved a shared administrative position, overseeing English, interdisciplinary studies, and the Center for Communal Studies)

#### Board Members

Franziska Bechtel (Consultant for Diaconal Education Frankfurt, Germany); Gregory W. Brown (Retired Principal Christa McCauliffe Alternative Middle School); Jennifer Greene (Archivist Librarian, USI); Donald E. Janzen (Retired Consulting); Jane Johansen (Professor Emerita of Business Communications, USI); Joshua Lockyer (Professor of Anthropology, Arkansas Tech University); Susan Matarese (Professor Emerita of Political Science, University of Louisville); Carol Medlicott (Associate Professor of Geography, Northern Kentucky University); Graham Perry (Curator of Social History, Tennessee State Museum); Donald Pitzer (Professor Emeritus of History, Director Emeritus Center for Communal Studies, USI); Michael Strezewski (Associate Professor of Anthropology, USI); Leslie Townshend (Director Community Engagement, USI); Wendy Bredhold (Senior Campaign Representative, Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, Indiana and Kentucky)

#### Ex officio

Melinda Roberts (Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts); Jason Hardgrave (Associate Professor and Chair of History Department, USI); Marna Hostetler (Director Rice Library, USI)

#### Center Location

University of Southern Indiana, University Achieves and Special Collections (David L. Rice Library, Communal Studies Reading Room 3022)

#### CCS Prize Winners

Dr. John Cage, Australian scholar who won the CCS travel grant 2019 will tentatively visit USI in fall 2022 to conduct his research. We look forward to hosting him in fall.

In 2022, the Center for Communal awarded two prizes, but no travel grant. The prize for best undergraduate paper has been awarded to Peter Hawes from the University of Richmond for "Conjugal Relation: The Shaker's Question for Frontier Kentucky." The prize for best graduate student paper has been awarded to Jacklyn Weier from the Department of Geography at Pennsylvania State University for her Ph.D. thesis paper entitled, "Connecting Commons: Governing Networks of Collective Property in the US."

I want to express my gratitude to the following board members who reviewed the proposals and selected the winners: Carol Medlicott, Joshua Lockyer, Jennifer Greene, Graham Perry, Jane Johansen.

### Communal Studies Minor

The departments of History and World Languages and Cultures offered courses toward the fulfillment of the minor in communal studies, fall and spring respectively. Fall 2021, Dr. Greg Brown, adjunct faculty of history taught an undergraduate course, entitled, “Roots of Communalism” (6 students) and a graduate course, entitled “Communal Societies in America” (15 students). Dr. Rode offered a senior seminar on “Utopia” (11 students) in spring 2022.

Curriculum changes to the CCS minor: Social work is requesting to remove SOCW 239 and SOCW 402 from the CCS curriculum because SOCW 239 has been deleted and SOCW 402 is a field placement course for social work majors only. These courses previously served as electives. The Social Work Department recommended the following course addition instead:

SOCW 222 Social Welfare: Emergence of the Social Service

*This course explores the philosophical and historical evolution of the American social welfare system. Course content covers public and voluntary efforts to deal with poverty and other social problems. Content addresses theories of political influence on social change. Content on social justice, oppression, discrimination, spirituality, and diversity are included. Open to all students.*

### Changes to the Bylaws

The following changed to the Bylaws were approved by the Board of Advisors at the Spring 2022 board meeting.

ARTICLE II: DIRECTOR, BOARD OF ADVISORS, MEETINGS, AND VOTING

Section 1 – Director and Board of Advisors

Director: The Director is appointed by the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts ~~from the History Department.~~ from the Liberal Arts Faculty. Faculty interested in the directorship shall apply to the Board of Advisors who will forward a recommendation to the dean. The Director of the Center for Communal Studies is the permanent Chair of the Board. The Director issues an annual report by the end of the spring semester and fulfills the purposes identified in Article 1, Section 2.

### Center Sponsored Lectures

Nov 5, 2021. Dr. William Hemminger lectured on his book *Growing Good. A Beginner’s Guide to Cultivating Caring Communities* (Indiana University Press). The book also features an essay by Wendy Bredhold a CCS board member. Dr. William Hemminger’s lecture was well attended; however, there were issues with non-USI participants logging on to the zoom event. In the future we will offer a zoom ID in addition to the link to mitigate the problem. Jennifer Greene informed the Board that Dr. Hemminger went on a brief local media tour after the CCS lecture that reflected well on the series. (38 participants).

March 3, 2022. Originally, Dr. Casey Harison (former director of the Center) had invited Professor Beverly Seckinger from the University of Arizona to present on her documentary video *Hippie Family Values*. Due to Covid, the event was postponed twice. In spring 2022, we finally arranged for a zoom film screening. The week before, Mr. Jim Hunter, instructor of English and local film critic conducted an interview with Prof. Seckinger on Evansville’s TV stations WEHT/WTVW (Local Lifestyles) which served as a great advertisement. After the film screening at USI, a member of the “Hippie” community joined the Q&A session. All interviews can be viewed on the CCS website. (82 participants)

April 22, 2022. Raghunath Cappo lectured on “Yoga and the West.” This in-person event was co-sponsored by the history department. Raghunath Cappo is a big name in yoga and runs the yoga community as well as the ecocenter at Supersoul, in Upstate NY. With the direct connections to communities in India this talk

attracted yoga member from the local community. Dr. K. Shefvland (History) provided a synopsis on how the talk correlates with the communal studies goals. (16 participants)

### Center Promotion and Advertisement

March 17, 2022. Jennifer Greene and Silvia Rode presented on the Center's history, achievements, goals, and archival materials at the annual College of Liberal Arts Advisory Board dinner. The Liberal Arts Board is comprised of local politicians, members of the business community, and philanthropists.

Carolyn Zullo (Liberal Arts Marketing and Events Coordinator) updated the CCS website. The following changes were implemented:

- More graphics and colorful advertisements for events, including audio recordings
- Lecture Series tab in color
- More groups/organizations added to resources page
- YouTube interview link with Travel Grant recipient
- More visuals added to the communal studies minor page
- Twitter account added
- New Minutes and Bylaws tab added

List Serv membership addresses (521) updated

Center advertised in *Community* magazine purchased

### New Research Resources and Engagement Opportunities

Interviews with authors and grant winner: Dr. Pitzer conducted interviews with authors Dr. Greg Brown (*Matchsticks Contemplating Eternity: Life, Death, and Faith in What Is*) and with Dr. Rahima Schwenkbeck (*The Business of Marketing, Entrepreneurship, and Architecture of Communal Societies in the 1960s and 1970s*). Dr. Harison interviewed the 2021 travel grant winner Dr. Erik John Freeman on his research experiences at the Center and in New Harmony. These interviews are posted on the CCS website.

Leslie Townsend leads the New Harmony *Lily Grant* development on *Religion and Spirituality*. Historic New Harmony as a cultural institution qualified for the grant, however, the grant is a part of the university, and it is therefore a great opportunity for the Center of Communal Studies as well to get students more engaged with New Harmony. Dr. Don Pitzer serves as a research scholar for Historic New Harmony's Lilly Religion and Cultural Institution Planning Grant.

Greene and Rode held a zoom meeting with members of the Intentional Communities Research Group *Diggers and Dreamers Collective*, based in Wales and UK. The group was interested in how the Center and its archives are organized.

### Collection Development Report (Jennifer Greene, Librarian/Archivist)

Discussions with Beverly Seckinger about the possibility of becoming a repository for her film project.

- Foundation for Intentional Communities (FIC)- Harvey Baker provided minutes from FIC for collection 1987-2018, materials online
- York Center Co-op- Doris Dorn donated the minutes and records of the community from 1959-2015. Includes minutes, newsletters, organization, events, and legal filings
- Appletree (Oregon) sent more boxes

## Research

- Erik Freeman- Travel grant researcher
- Cory Becker- Synanon community member looking for interviews with residents and other background materials for community library
- Provided one-on-one reference for HIST 519 Communal studies (26 consultations)
- Erica Nobles, Media, Culture, and Communication at NYU, on Skyview Acres
- Tori Gardner, student from Coe University on Icarian research
- Laura Gerber, student for IU working on Padanaram
- GERM 490-Utopia
- ENG 226- Folklore

## Outreach

- Organic and Natural: Shiloh Community & Farm. *Communiqué Newsletter*. Spring 2022
- Models of Utopia in Practice and Theory: Organic and Natural: Shiloh Community & Farm. Presentation Social Alchemy Symposium, New Harmony April 2022
- Presented at College of Liberal Arts Advisory Board
- Intentional Communities Research Group from Wales, UK with Dr. Silvia Rode, October 2021
- Round Table session on Center for Communal Studies, Communal Studies Association Conference, online, October 2021
- L'Arche newsletter on collecting on intentional communities, October 2021

## Circulation

- Students 45
- Staff/Faculty 8
- Public 7

## Don Janzen

### Phalanx Research

- 12 communities referenced in Harbinger newspaper
- 24 groups articles
- Articles on groups forming/Industrial Union
- 66 total articles

### Downloads

- 13 community posters
- 94 articles
- 3 revised articles

## Center Budget

The Center budget for 2021-2022 included \$12,395 plus \$948 for salaries and benefits and \$6,895 for Service and Supplies. With all charges accounted for, there is a surplus of \$3303.66 for Service and Supplies. (The surplus is the result of no travel grant winner 2022 and Dr. Cage's cancellation of his research travel plans.)

## Items for Discussion

- Change name from “travel grant” to “travel research grant.” (Title received unanimous board approval)
- Define the “age” of article for prize submission (Board unanimously agreed to establish written guidelines for the CCS prizes and grant submissions)
- Define length of postponement for travel grant visit
- Add new member to CCS board. (Survey/ballot will be emailed to board members to vote on membership renewals, number of board members and admitting new candidate)
- What to do with the budget surplus. (Board agreed to use budget surplus for Jennifer Greene to visit communities and purchase a CCS banner)

### For the Future

- Create Center for Communal Studies exhibition in the Atheneum in New Harmony
- Work with Don Janzen and Jennifer Greene on advertising Center collections to students and faculty. This includes communal articles and posters on LGBTQ communities, Hippie Communities, sustainability and food, inventions, literary expressions, the arts, education, religion, the environment, et.al.
- Continue Center representation on HNH Board
- Include Center and trip to New Harmony in UNIV/Freshmen seminar
- Continue development of courses for the communal studies minor
- Continue advertising the Center in national and international journals and websites including the *Communities* magazine
- Continue CCS informational presentations at university and regional venues
- Connect with the MINKA project on campus
- Interview authors and grant winners for CCS website (Dr. Joshua Lockyer’s book)
- Add a new board member
- Design new brochures
- Support Communal Studies Association Conference 2023 (Kathy Fernandez)
- In-person fall 2022 Board meeting

ADDENDUM  
BOARD OF ADVISORS  
Scholarly Publications, Presentations, Teaching, and Awards 2021-2022

Books

Brown, Greg. *Matchsticks Contemplating Eternity: Life, Death, and Faith in What Is*. Wipf & Stock. Eugene, OR. 2021

Lockyer, Joshua. *Seeing Like a Commons: 80 Years of Intentional Community Building and Common Property Stewardship in Celo, North Carolina*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. 2021

Peer-Review Articles

Medlicott, Carol. "Reconsidering the Shaker *Tree of Life*: Cultural Antecedents & Fresh Interpretations," *American Communal Societies Quarterly* 15:3 (October 2021), 139-169

Rode, Silvia. "Harmonist Archetypes: Millennial Messenger, Seductress and Industrialist." *That Wonder of the West. New Harmony on the Wabash*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, FORTHCOMING

Strezewski, Michael. "An excellent house of private entertainment: 'The Harmonist Tavern 1815-1825.'" *That Wonder of the West. New Harmony on the Wabash*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, FORTHCOMING

Strezewski, Michael. Archaeology of the Harmony Society, New Harmony, Indiana. Chapter to be published in edited volume on Great Lakes Archaeology, edited by Sarah Surface-Evans and Misty Jackson. University of Alabama Press. (Manuscript submitted February 2021). FORTHCOMING

Essay

Medlicott, Carol. Contact Tracing: Reflections on *Shaker Fever* Amid Pandemic Lockdowns. ACCEPTED

Book Review

Medlicott, Carol. *A Geography of the Hutterites in North America*, by Simon M. Evans (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2021), in *Annals of Iowa* 81:2 (Spring 2022), 188-190.

Presentations

Brown, Greg. "Infinite Invisible Impacts." *Communal Studies Association Annual Conference*. "Center for Communal Studies Roundtable." October 2021

Greene, Jennifer. "Shiloh." *Social Alchemy Symposium Big Car Collaborative Indiana Humanities*, New Harmony, IN, April 2022.

Greene, Jennifer. "Center for Communal Studies." *College of Liberal Arts Board of Advisors*. University of Southern Indiana, March 2022

Greene, Jennifer. *Communal Studies Association Annual Conference*. "Center for Communal Studies Roundtable." October 2021

Lockyer, Joshua. "Cultivating Commons Subjects: Teaching, Learning, and Practicing Commoning in a Land Trust-Based Intentional Community." Invited virtual contribution to the panel "The Transformative Potential of Teaching the Commons." Society for Applied Anthropology annual meeting. Salt Lake City, UT. March 23, 2022.

Lockyer, Joshua. "Arthur Morgan and the Founding of Celo Community: Some Complexities and Contradictions Regarding Sustainability, Justice, and Inclusivity." Presentation at the Communal Studies Association annual conference. Online. October 1, 2021.

Pitzer, Donald. *Communal Studies Association Annual Conference*. "Center for Communal Studies

Roundtable." October 2021

Rode, Silvia. "Über-Utopias of Perpetual Busyness: Marzahn and Huaxi." *International Communal Studies Association* (ICSA). Skanderborg, Denmark, July 2022

Rode, Silvia. "Models of Utopia in Practice and Theory." *Social Alchemy Symposium Big Car Collaborative Indiana Humanities*," New Harmony, IN, April 2022.

Rode, Silvia. "Center for Communal Studies." *College of Liberal Arts Board of Advisors*. University of Southern Indiana, March 2022

Rode, Silvia, *Communal Studies Association Annual Conference*. "Center for Communal Studies Roundtable." October 2021

Rode, Silvia. "George Rapp's Entrepreneurship." Rotary Club Evansville, IN, October 2021

Strezewski, Michael. *The Harmonist Tavern in New Harmony: Negotiating with the Neighbors on the Indiana Frontier (1815-1825)*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Communal Studies Association (virtual conference), October 2, 2021.

Strezewski, Michael. Connor P. Rose, William S. Elliot, Jr., and Michael Strezewski. *Geological Specimens from David Dale Owen's 1834-43 New Harmony Lab*. Poster presented at the 136<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Indiana Academy of Science, March 20, 2021.

Strezewski, Michael. *New Harmony Tavern*. Invited lecture presented for the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society and Willard Library. April 19, 2022.

#### Interviews

Pitzer, Donald. Recorded Interview with Dr. Gregory Brown and his new Book "Matchsticks Contemplating Eternity: Life, Death, and Faith in What Is." CCS Website, 2022

Pitzer, Donald. Recorded Interview with Dr. Rahima Schwenkbeck and her new book "The Business of Marketing, Entrepreneurship, and Architecture of Communal Societies in the 1960s and 1970s." CCS Website, FORTHCOMING

#### Moderator

Rode, Silvia. "Utopian Space." 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Interdisciplinary Colloquium. USI, April 2022.

#### Reports

Strezewski, Michael. Michael Strezewski, *Excavations at the Site of the 1816 Harmonist Church (12Po894), New Harmony, Indiana*. University of Southern Indiana Archaeology Laboratory, Reports of Investigations 21-02. Submitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Strezewski, Michael. *Phase Ia Reconnaissance at the New Harmony Mounds Site (12-Po-206), New Harmony, Indiana*. University of Southern Indiana Archaeology Laboratory, Reports of Investigations 21-01. Submitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indianapolis, Indiana.

#### Field Director

Strezewski, Michael. Field Director. Excavations at the 1816 Harmonist church site (12Po894), Posey County, Indiana (May-June 2021).

#### Awards, Promotions, Board Memberships

Lockyer, Joshua. Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award, Arkansas Tech University, 2021

Lockyer, Joshua. Recipient of the Communal Studies Association's Timothy Miller Outstanding Book Award for *Seeing Like a Commons: 80 Years of Intentional Community Building and Common Property Stewardship in Celo, North Carolina*. Lanham, MD: Lexington (2021)

Lockyer, Joshua. Promotion to Professor of Anthropology. Arkansas Tech University, 2022

Pitzer, Don. Research Scholar for Historic New Harmony's Lilly Religion and Cultural Institution Planning Grant, 2022

Rode, Silvia. USI Distinguished Professor Award and Commencement Speaker, 2021

Rode, Silvia. Advisory Board Member, Historic New Harmony, 2021-present

Rode, Silvia. UNIV Academic Goals Committee on New Harmony and the Center, USI, 2022

Rode, Silvia. Advisory Board Member, MINKA (Learning Lab for Living Well Community), 2022

Rode, Silvia. Advisory Board Member, Efroymsen Creative Residency (ECR) Partnership Historic New Harmony and the Columbus Area Arts Council, 2019-present

### Teaching

Brown, Greg. *HIST-222 Roots of Communalism*. USI, Fall 2021

Brown, Greg. *HIST-519 Communal Societies in America*, USI, Fall, 2021

Lockyer, Joshua. *ANTH 4983 Senior Seminar: Cults, Communes, & Cooperative Communities*. Arkansas Tech University, Spring 2022

Rode, Silvia. *GERM 490 Utopia Seminar*. USI, Spring 2022