
University of Southern Indiana Center for Communal Studies
Annual Report April 2025

Apr 14, 2025 10:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Meeting ID

921 2586 2712

Invite Link

<https://usi.zoom.us/j/92125862712>

Board Members Present

Dr. Gregory W. Brown (Retired Principal Christa McCauliffe Alternative Middle School & Independent Business Consultant); Dr. Andrew Buck, Professor of Sociology, USI); Ms. Jennifer Greene (Archivist Librarian, USI); Ms. Leslie Townshend (Director Community Engagement, USI); Dr. Del Doughty (Dean, College of Liberal Arts); Ms. Marna Hostetler (Director Rice Library, USI); Dr. Matthew Hanka (Professor of Political Science, USI); Mr. G. Graham Perry III (Tennessee Historical Society Columbia State Community College); Dr. Kristalyn Shefveland (Assistant Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Associate Professor of History, USI); Dr. Carol Medlicott Professor of Geography. Northern Kentucky University); Dr. Jason Hardgrave (Assistant Provost, Professor of History, USI); Dr. Mike Strezewski (Associate Professor of Anthropology, USI)

Absent Members

Dr. Donald Janzen (Consultant); Dr. Donald Pitzer (Professor Emeritus of History, Director Emeritus Center for Communal Studies, USI); Dr. Kelly Kaelin (Assistant Professor of History; USI); Wendy Bredhold (Senior Manager Transmission Initiative National Audubon Society's Climate Team); Dr. Jason Hardgrave (Assistant Provost, Professor of History, USI)

Special Guest

Ms. Diane Sanders, Assistant Director, Historic New Harmony

Luncheon Guests

Prof. Michelangelo Sabatino, IIT College of Architecture, Chicago

Prof. Ron Henderson, IIT College of Architecture, Chicago

Fujimoto Kurato (Japan: Master Gardener)

Antonio Reboredo Raposo (PHD student, Polytechnic University of Catalonia)

Mohammad Arabmazar (IIT MA+U, Master of Landscape Architecture)

Director

Dr. Silvia Rode (Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts; Professor of German, USI)

Administrative Assistant

Ms. Julie Cox

Center Location

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

Meeting Location

USI Campus UC 2217/18

I. Acknowledgements

- Dr. Matthew Hanka was appointed by Mayor Stephanie Terry to serve a two-year term on the Evansville Vanderburgh County Human Relations Commission. And the Evansville City Council elected Dr. Hanka to another four-year term on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee.
- Dr. Del Doughty has been named to the board of directors for Indiana Humanities, a statewide nonprofit organization.
- Dr. Silvia Rode was promoted to Associate Dean of the college of Liberal Arts and was appointed to serve on the board of Urbans Seeds, Evansville.

II. Board Members (term expiration 2025)

Dr. Gregory W. Brown (agreed to continue), Mr. G. Graham Perry III (agreed to continue), Dr. Joshua Lockyer (agreed to continue)

III. New Board Members Approvals

Dr. Greg Blair is originally from Red Deer, Canada, He received his Ph.D. in Aesthetics & Art Theory from the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts (IDSVA), Portland, ME. Dr. Blair is an artist, writer, educator, and activist who resides in Evansville, Indiana with his wife and two children. Blair is an Assistant Professor of Art and Design at the University of Southern Indiana where he teaches digital design, contemporary art history, and gender studies courses. Blair's scholarly research and artwork intertwine various forms of writing, publishing, zines, sculpture, photography, sound, and installation. Blair is interested in scholarship and practices that encourages collaboration, interdisciplinary scholarship, and networking. Blair's last book project, *The Politics of Spatial Transgressions in the Arts*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan. His writings have also been featured in *Arts Magazine*, *The Journal of Art for Life*, *Echo: A Music-Centered Journal*, *Art Style Magazine*, *Visual Inquiry*, and *Kapsula Magazine*. His newest book, *What Punk Taught Me*, will be published by Vernon Press in early 2025. Dr. Blair is interested in joining the CCS board so he can offer his background and experiences in art, design, and collaboration to further assist the mission of the CCS to promote interdisciplinary scholarship and public interest in communal groups.

Greg is the publisher of a new photography book on New Harmony.

Dr. Tristra Newyear, earned her Ph.D. in Central Eurasian Studies from Indiana University. She conducted extensive field research in Siberian and Mongolian communities. Besides teaching and publishing in her field (a book chapter on Siberian history, published by Routledge 2026), Newyear has 20 years' experience in music/PR industries. She is a creative artist (writer, audio creator, instigator) devoted to the history of New Harmony and community creativity. Currently, she is the Chief Strategy Officer at Rock Paper Scissors, a Bloomington-based PR/marketing agency with an international reputation for excellence in music and entertainment technology PR. In addition, she has decades of experience in public relations and the music industry, as well as several semester's experience teaching classes solo at the college level and a PhD from IU in cultural history/area studies. Newyear is also an artist who published several novels, most recently *Starfall*, dubbed "visionary" by *NUVO* Indianapolis, based on New Harmony's history. She

also wrote and produced a [limited-run podcast](#) on early 19th-century firebrand Frances Wright and have been interviewed on NPR stations (WNIN, WVXU Cincinnati). And she regularly co-creates arts events in her hometown of Bloomington as part of an arts collective, MDWST Fable.

Tristra has published novels based on the Harmonist and a Podcast on Fanny Wright and intentional communities.

Dr. Claudia Roesch is an assistant professor in modern history at Konstanz University, Germany where she teaches 19th century history and gender studies. She has earned her PhD in modern and contemporary history at Münster University in 2014. Since then, she has held researcher positions at the German Historical Institute, Washington, and the Konstanz University History of Knowledge Research group. Her research interests are the history of intentional communities in the Americas, the history of gender and the family, migration history, history of science and technology. She is the recipient of the CCS 2024 Research Travel Grant and was also awarded the Fulbright American Studies Award for her book project *Utopian Engineering: Solving the 19th Century Slavery, Labor, and the Women's Questions with Science*, which investigates the use of science and technology in intentional settlements in the Americas. As a Fulbright fellow, Dr. Roesch visited the USI Center For Communal Studies and the New Harmony Working Men's Institute in the fall of 2024. Her most important academic publications include: "Owen and the Engineers: Cross-Fertilization between Engineering and Early Socialism in the Owenite Tradition", in: *Global Intellectual History* (2023): 1-16; "Talking about the Weather: Producing Climate Knowledge as Colonial Practice in Intentional Communities in the Americas, 1820s–1840s", in: *History of Intellectual Culture* 3 (2024): 137-157, <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111291383-007>

Claudia has conducted research in New Harmony and a new book that includes findings on New Harmony is forthcoming.

Drs. Blair, Newyear and Roesch received unanimous approval

IV. [New Harmony Update](#)

Ms. Diane Sanders, Assistant Director of Historic New Harmony

V. [Communal Studies Minor](#)

CCS ???: Innovative Communities: Past, Present and Future

Semesters offered: Spring

Course description:

This course explores how intentional communities can innovate and change the lives of their members and communities at large. The course includes examples of past, present and future models that offer solutions to social problems and new avenues for sustainable living. The course draws on insights from USI's relationship with New Harmony, the Rice Library archives and the Minka Lab on campus.

(Committee Members: Buck, Brown, Hanka, Rode, Shefveld)

VI. [CCS Prizes and Grant](#)

As of April 14th, we have received one CCS travel research grant submission and one graduate prize submission. Solicitations for submissions were posted in the *Communities Magazine*, ICSA newsletter, and

to approx. 500 academic email addresses. Board members discussed new advertising strategies , such as advertisement at CSA conference package and Humanities Net.

Undergrad./Graduate Review Committee
Carol Medlicott
Matthew Hanka
Del Doughty

Travel Research Grant Review Committee
Graham Perry
Jennifer Greene
Greg Brown

VII. Lecture

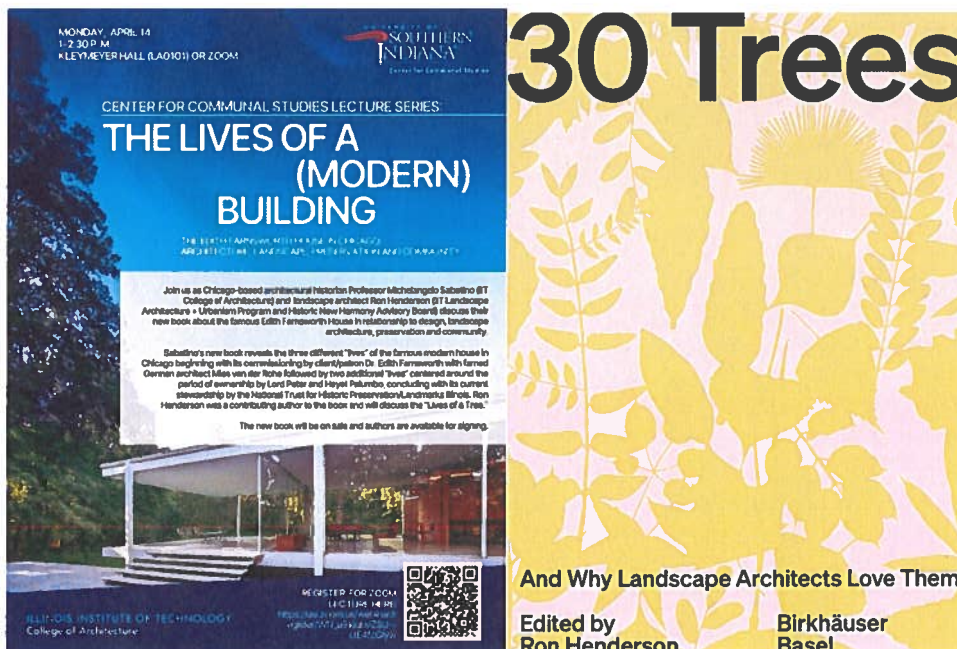
The Lives of a (Modern) Building:

The Edith Farnsworth House in Chicago: Architecture, Landscape, Preservation and Community

Join us as Chicago-based architectural historian Professor Michelangelo Sabatino (IIT College of Architecture) and landscape architect Ron Henderson (IIT College of Architecture) discuss the new book about the famous Edith Farnsworth House in relationship to design, landscape architecture, and preservation.

Sabatino's new book reveals the three different "lives" of the famous modern house in Chicago beginning with its commissioning by client/patron Dr. Edith Farnsworth with famed German architect Mies van der Rohe followed by two additional "lives" centered around the period of ownership by Lord Peter and Hayat Palumbo, concluding with its current stewardship by the National Trust for Historic Preservation/Landmarks Illinois. Ron Henderson was a contributing author to the book and will discuss the "Lives of a Tree."

The new book will be on sale and authors are available for signing.

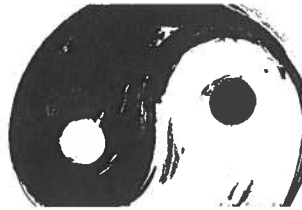


Special guests: Fujimoto Kurato (Japan: Master Gardener)
Antonio Reboredo Raposo (PHD student, Polytechnic University of Catalonia)
Mohammad Arabmazar (IIT MA+U, Master of Landscape Architecture)

- Tentative CCS lecture fall 2025 G. Graham Perry III (Tennessee Historical Society Columbia State Community College)

VIII. Academics, Outreach and Engagement

- College of Liberal Arts Colloquium



Harmony and Dissonance: The 17th Annual Interdisciplinary Colloquium

The University of Southern Indiana College of Liberal Arts Tuesday April 8th, 2025 Carter Hall

- UNIV101: Screaming Eagles Experience



VISIT

NEW HARMONY

- Greene and Rode met with artist Sarah G Sharp, who is planning her solo exhibit in New Harmony, January 2026. Her work in utopian communities is aligned with the research material held in the collections at USI's Center for Communal Studies.
- Rode is participating in a workshop, entitled "In and Out of the Canon of Intellectual History" at Helsinki Centre for Intellectual History (Myriam-Isabelle Ducrocq, Nanterre Université, France - organizer)

IX. Collection Development

- Common Place, Cambridge, MA. Working with community members to transfer community archival records, minutes, events, some limited financial, and photographs.
- John Martin Smith
 - Possible donation of Indiana Shaker community materials, 1818 Deed signed by President Monroe granted lands that the West Union/Busro was built and other related materials. The materials are coming from the son of John Martin Smith, Shaker historian.
- Don Janzen

Articles on cooperative living, interviews, community logos and event posters, and quotes from publications on various topics of communal living.

Reference

12 general reference requests

9- Public

3-Faculty

Contacted by 88 Keys Arts and Entertainment Management regarding information on Jonestown Survivors and possible use of materials from collection. Sent updated finding aid for Peoples Temple and Laura Johnston-Kohl, links to images in USI gallery and the Jonestown Institute.

X. Budget

Expenditures	\$7,145.00	\$7,145.00	\$2,620.71	\$500.00	\$4,024.29	36.68%	56.32%
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Not included are Communal Magazine advertisement, awards, board luncheon.

ADDENDUM
BOARD OF ADVISORS
Scholarly Publications, Presentations, Teaching, and Awards 2024-2025

Books

Kaelin, Kelly Kaelin. *Convert, Migrant, Missionary: Women, Race, and the Moravian Church in the Atlantic World*, Palgrave's series: "Transatlantic Christianities" in May 2025. (Forthcoming May)

Peer-Review Articles

Brown, Greg. "Developmental Communal Studies." *Communal Societies:: Journal of the Communal Studies Association*. 43 (1), 2024: 21-22.

Buck, Andrew. "Critical Letter Writing and Deliberation during the Brezhnev Era." *Europe-Asia Studies* 76, 4: 590-612, 2024.

Schelly, Chelsea, Zach Rubin, and **Joshua Lockyer**. 2024. "The Paradox of Collective Climate Action in Rural U.S. Ecovillages: Ethnographic Reflections and Perspectives." *npj Climate Action* (2024)3:17. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44168-024-00100-w>

Reports

Strezewski, Michael. *Excavations at the Barchet Sisters' Cabin Site (12Po206), New Harmony, Indiana*. University of Southern Indiana Archaeology Laboratory, Reports of Investigations 23-01. Submitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Strezewski, Michael. *Phase Ia Reconnaissance for Tree Planting at Site 12Po206, New Harmony, Indiana*. University of Southern Indiana Archaeology Laboratory, Reports of Investigations 23-02. Submitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Academic Presentations (international/national/regional)

Brown, Greg. "Developmental Communalists." Communal Studies Association Conference, Ephrata, PA. October 4.

Brown, Greg. "Planning for Harmony and Dissonance with Loose-Tight Coupling." The 17th Annual Interdisciplinary Colloquium The University of Southern Indiana College of Liberal Arts, April 2025

Buck, Andrew and Matthew Hanke. "Innovative Communities: Past, Present, and Future." The 17th Annual Interdisciplinary Colloquium The University of Southern Indiana College of Liberal Arts, April 2025

Hanka, Matthew. "What is Happening in Your Community: Why Community Development Matters." CCS lecture. New Harmony, October 2024

Hanka, Matthew. "Cognitive Dissonance in our American Political System." The 17th Annual Interdisciplinary Colloquium The University of Southern Indiana College of Liberal Arts, April 2025

Strezewski, Michael. "Harmonie for Sale: Commerce and Commodities on the Indiana Frontier, 1824-1831." The 17th Annual Interdisciplinary Colloquium The University of Southern Indiana College of Liberal Arts, April 2025

[invited] Strezewski, Michael. "Archaeology in Georg Rapp's Utopia, New Harmony, Indiana, USA." *Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany, Department of Historical Archaeology*. Tübingen, Germany, December 18, 2024.

Conference Moderator

Kaelin, Kelly (Moderator). "Harmony and Dissonance for Individuals and Communities." The 17th Annual Interdisciplinary Colloquium The University of Southern Indiana College of Liberal Arts, April 2025

Rode, Silvia (Moderator) "New Harmony and Dissonance." The 17th Annual Interdisciplinary Colloquium The University of Southern Indiana College of Liberal Arts, April 2025

Lecture Organizer

Hanka, Matthew (Moderator). "Pocket Neighborhoods" by Ross Chapin. *Spring Lecture Series: USI's Center for Communal Studies (CCS)*, April 2024

Rode, Silvia (Organizer). "Pocket Neighborhoods" by Ross Chapin. *Spring Lecture Series: USI's Center for Communal Studies (CCS)*, April 2024

Workshops

Rode, Silvia (Presenter). "Frances Wright and Harmonist Women." New Harmony Retreat. September 2024

Rode, Silvia (Pannel Workshop). "Out of the Canon of Intellectual History. Preparations for the Helsinki Centre for Intellectual History. Organizer: Dr. Myriam-Isabelle Ducrocq, Nanterre Université, France

[invited] Strezewski, Michael. "Colonies in Antiquity and the Modern Period, Approaches from Classical Archaeology and Historical Archaeology on Colonization Processes and Resources: Colonial Encounters: A Tale of Two Sites." Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany, December 2024

Videos/Podcast

Rode, Silvia. "Harmonist and Owenite communities, radical thought in historical communities, spirituality and economics." *Fanny Wright*. 8-episode podcast. June 2024 <https://kite.link/radicalfannywright>

Rode, Silvia. Interview with 2024 CCS Travel Research Grant recipient Dr. Claudia Roesch. <https://www.usi.edu/liberal-arts/communal-center> .

Manuscript Evaluation

Rode, Silvia. Manuscript review for *History of Intellectual Culture*. Vol. 3. Berlin: De Gruyter Press, 2024.

Awards, Promotions, Board Memberships

Brown, Greg. 200th Owenite Anniversary Organizing Committee. 2024/2025

Brown, Greg. Board Member Historic New Harmony, 2023-2026.

Brown, Greg. Board Member Communal Studies Association, 2022-2026

Rode, Silvia. Chair, Historic New Harmony Advisory Board, 2023-2025

Rode, Silvia. Advisory Board, Bronstein Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness and the MINKA Project, 2023-present

Rode, Silvia. Advisory Board, Urban Seeds Organization, 2025-present

Committees

Rode, Silvia. Committee Member, 200th Owen and Maclure Anniversary, 2024-2025

Teaching

[invited] Rode, Silvia. "International Intentional Communities." Students of the Dept. of History,

University of Florida, February 2025