

Tulane University, visiting Scholar
Policy Advisor, Invest in Louisiana

EDUCATION

PhD, Department of Communication, University of California San Diego, December 2019

Dissertation Title: *Clear as Mud: The Struggle over Louisiana's Disappearing Wetlands*.

Committee: Patrick Anderson (Advisor), Valerie Hartouni, Kelly Gates, Angela Booker, Octavio Aburto-Oropeza.

MJ Graduate School of Journalism, University of California Berkeley, 2002

MA Creative Writing, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI, 2012

BA Literature, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Research Interests: Political Ecology, Environmental Justice, Political Economy

Books

Randolph, Ned. *Muddy Thinking in the Mississippi River Delta: A Call for Reclamation*.

University of California Press. Berkeley, CA. February 2024.

Randolph, Ned. *The State of Energy: Sustaining Petroleum in Louisiana*.

Louisiana State University Press. Baton Rouge, La. Under Peer Review.

Books in Progress

Randolph, Ned. *A Persistence of Place: Inheritance and Reckoning in America*. (Working title).

Manuscript in progress.

Chapters

Randolph, Ned. "Pipeline Logics and Culpability: Establishing a Continuum of Harm for

Sacrifice Zones." *Encyclopedia of the Anthropocene*, Second Edition. Elsevier.

January 2026.

Randolph, Ned. "The Muddy Underbelly: The Fight for Health, Heritage, and Justice in

Louisiana's Mississippi River Parishes." Edited Volume: *Mississippi: Soundings on*

America's Arterial River. Clemson University Press. Under Peer Review.

Peer reviewed articles:

Randolph, Ned. "Modeling Authority Over a Drowning Coast." *Environmental Politics*. Taylor

& Francis. October 6, 2022.

Randolph, Ned. "Muddy Foil: Extraction and Resistance in New Orleans and the Lower

Mississippi River Delta." *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*. Taylor &

Francis. Spring 2021, Vol 18, Issue 1.

Randolph, Ned. "Pipeline Logic and Culpability: Establishing a Continuum of Harm for

Sacrifice Zones." *Frontiers in Environmental Science*. Special Topics Issue: "Coastal

Cities in a Changing Climate." July 2021. Vol 9.

Randolph, Ned. "License to Extract: How Louisiana's Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast is

Sinking It." *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, Fall 2018, Issue 7.2.

Winner of the CSA Randy Martin Prize.

Randolph, Ned. “River Activism, “Levees-Only,” and the Great Flood of 1927.” Special issue on Media History and Democracy, *Media and Communication*, Vol. 6, Issue 1.

Reviews and Media Coverage of *Muddy Thinking*

- Monk-Carter, Lucie, “Sunk Coast Fallacy,” *64 Parishes*. Aug. 29, 2025.
- Mallika, Sardeshpande, “Editor's Review of Muddy Thinking... An Immersive Account of Urban Reclamation,” *Cities and the Environment (CATE)*: Vol. 17: Iss. 2, Article 6. DOI: 10.15365/cate.2024.170206
- Smardon, R. “Ned Randolph. Muddy thinking in the Mississippi River Delta: a call for reclamation *Environ Stud Sci* 14, 622–623 (2024) <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13412-024-00923-3>
- Featured on **Louisiana Life Insider Podcast**, Episode 201, “Down the River – Author Ned Randolph Explores ‘The Big Muddy,’” October 17, 2024.
- Featured on **Cultural Studies Podcast**, Episode, “Ned Randolph on Louisiana, the environment, New Orleans, mud, capitalist extraction, and grassroots,” 2024.
- *Muddy Thinking* has been adopted for courses at Tulane University (Architecture), University of Washington (Environmental Science), University of South Florida (Civil and Environmental Engineering), and the University of North Carolina Greensboro (Anthropology).

Selected Endorsements (*Muddy Thinking in the Mississippi River Delta*)

- **Toby Miller**, author of *Greenwashing Culture*.
- **Dominic Boyer**, author of *No More Fossils*; Director, Rice University Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences.
- **Eugene Turner**, Boyd Professor of Coastal Sciences, LSU.
- **Patrick Anderson**, Chair, UCSD Department of Communication, author of *Autobiography of a Disease*.
- **Valerie Hartouni**, Professor Emerita, UC San Diego.
- **Christopher Schaberg**, author of *Searching for the Anthropocene: A Journey into the Environmental Humanities*.
- **Rebecca Snedeker**, coauthor of *Unfathomable City*

Essays and Articles:

Randolph, Ned & Michael McEwen. “Everything All at Once: the DataCenter Effect on energy, resources and culture,” Spring 2026, SeaChange Podcast, WWNO. *Under Development*.

Randolph, Ned. “[Fraying Ties: The Shrimp and Petroleum Festival at 89.](#)” Summer 2025. *Oxford American*.

Randolph, Ned. “[The Obligation to Endure: Learning from Our Mother Trees.](#)” Summer 2025. *Country Roads Magazine*.

Randolph, Ned & Daniel Trotta. “[As Trump’s EPA ends ‘environmental justice,’ minority communities may pay a price.](#) *Reuters*. April 23, 2025.

- Randolph, Ned.** ["A Legacy of Resistance Lives on in Cancer Alley."](#) *Yale Climate Connections*. April 9, 2025.
- Randolph, Ned.** ["At the Edge of the Map: A Louisiana Tribe Confronts the LNG Boom."](#) July 28, 2025. Stabroek News.
- Randolph, Ned.** ["Power Surge: The Rising Hunger of AI Data Centers Accelerates the Need for Clean Energy to Meet Demand."](#) Jan 27, 2025. *DeSmog* and *The Lens Nola*
- Randolph, Ned.** ["Resilient New Orleans Regains its Stride, Hardly Missing a Beat After Truck Attack."](#) *Reuters*. Jan. 3, 2025
- Randolph, Ned.** ["Finding Hope in a Precarious Place."](#) *New Orleans Advocate Times Picayune*. May 30, 2024.
- Randolph, Ned.** ["We Need to Reclaim the Muddy Waters of the Gulf Coast from the Climate Crisis."](#) *Desmog*. May 24, 2024.
- Randolph, Ned.** ["How federal tax dollars meant to fight climate change could end up boosting Louisiana's fossil fuel production."](#) *The Conversation*. March 31, 2024.
- Randolph, Ned.** ["Industry-backed Carbon Capture won't solve the climate crisis."](#) *New Orleans Advocate Times Picayune*. Dec. 1, 2023.
- Randolph, Ned & Autumn Hannah.** ["Capturing Methane would be a win for the state's bottom line and the environment."](#) *New Orleans Advocate Times Picayune*. June 8, 2024.
- Randolph, Ned.** ["The Katrina Effect and the Ethical Extraction of Louisiana."](#) *Society and Space Magazine*. Oct. 20, 2022.
- Randolph, Ned.** ["Battered by Hurricanes and Pollution, It Is Time for Louisiana to Imagine Life Beyond Oil."](#) *DeSmog*. Oct. 10, 2020.
- Schaberg C. & Ned Randolph.** ["Teaching through the Doom."](#) *Inside Higher Ed*. Washington D.C. Jan. 30, 2020.
- Randolph, Ned,** ["Mapping the Environment of Coronavirus: A Lesson Plan,"](#) *The Lens Nola*. April 20, 2020.

Awards, Scholarships and Grants

- 2022 — SIP Award (Supporting Impactful Publications), Tulane University
- 2021 — Studio in the Woods Scholarly Retreat and stipend, Tulane ByWater Institute
- 2020 — Dissertation of the Year, American Studies Division, National Communication Association (NCA)
- 2019 — Monroe Fellowship Research Grant, Tulane Center for the Gulf South
- 2019 — PhD Fellowship Award, UCSD Institute for Practical Ethics
- 2016 — Judith and Neil Morgan Endowed Fellowship, (2 years).
- 2018 — Randy Martin Prize for Best Student Paper, Cultural Studies Association
- 2017 — Institute of Arts & Humanities Dissertation Writing Workshop Award, UCSD
- 2015-17 UCSD Communication Department Travel and Research Grants:
- Science & Technology Studies California Summer Retreat, Marin Headlands, CA
 - Mid-American Studies Conference, University of Kansas, Lawrence KS
 - San Francisco State University Graduate Student Conference, San Francisco, CA
 - Multiple trips to New Orleans and south Louisiana for field research.
- 2014-18 -Graduate Assistantship, UCSD (3 years)
- 2013 — Fellowship for Graduate Study, UCSD
- 2012 — Travel Fellowship for Disquiet Literary Seminar in Portugal, Eastern Michigan Univ.
- 2010-12- Graduate Assistantship, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI. (2 years)

- 2001 — Asian Studies Travel Grant to Hong Kong, UC Berkeley
2000 — Graduate Opportunity Fellowship, UC Berkeley

Invited Talks, Book Events, and Conference Presentations

A. Invited Academic Talks

- 2024 — “Muddy Foil,” Guest Lecture, Tulane School of Architecture
2021 — “Emerging Voices from the Gulf,” LSU Human Coast Initiative Symposium
2020 — “Storytelling and Public Problems,” UCSD Democracy Lab
2019 — “Ungovernable as Mud,” Future Cities // Future Coasts Speaker Series, Tulane ByWater Institute
2019 — “Drill Baby Drill,” LSU Department of Communication Studies Colloquium
2016 — “Racialization of Space, Spatialization of Race,” UCSD Urban Studies & Planning
2015 — “The Production of News as Situated Practice,” UCSD Department of Communication
2014 — “The Work of Being Watched,” UCSD Department of Communication
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B. Book Talks & Author Events

- 2025 — *Muddy Thinking* Book Talk, University of Washington
2024 — *Muddy Thinking* Book Talk, Pass Christian Historical Society
2024 — *Muddy Thinking* Book Talk, Thank You Books, Birmingham, AL
2024 — Alabama Rivers Alliance “Water Is Life” Series
2024 — Octavia Books, New Orleans (in conversation with Rebecca Snedeker)
2024 — “Mississippi River Past and Present,” Louisiana Book Festival panel
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C. Conference Presentations

- 2024 — Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences Annual Conference (Finding Hope)
2021 — National Communication Association (NCA) Annual Meeting, (Building Bridges)
2021 — Cultural Studies Association Annual Meeting, (ecologies of petroculture)
2020 — Cultural Studies Association Annual Meeting (Biopolitics of Covid-19)
2019 — Cultural Studies Association Annual Meeting (Pipeline Logic)
2019 — Society for Social Studies of Science (4S), ((Un)Making the Mississippi River)
2019 — Cultural Studies Association (Muddy Waters / Modeling Authority)
2018 — Cultural Studies Association (Problematizing the “Working Coast”) Randy Martin Prize
2017 — Dirt: Intersectional Approaches to Messiness, Ryerson University
2016 — Mid-American Studies Association, (Of Mud and Water)

Advocacy Work

- 2022-25 — Policy Advisor, Invest in Louisiana
I research fiscal and social impacts of the fossil fuel industry; and participate in an Environmental Defense Fund coalition to decrease methane emissions.

Academic Appointments

- 2021-22 — Visiting Assistant Professor, Joint appointment: Departments of
Communication/English, Tulane University
Instructor of Media Industries Analysis
Instructor of Environmental Writing
- 2020-21 — Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, Tulane University.
Instructor Environmental Communication
Instructor of Political Communication
Instructor of Media and the Public Sphere
Instructor of Environmental Journalism
- 2020-21 — Summer Enrichment Program, Tulane University
Instructor of Environmental Justice in the Anthropocene.
- Fall 2019 — Adjunct Professor, Department of Communication, Tulane University
Special Topics: Life and Culture on the Mississippi.
- 2017-18 — Lecturer, Department of Communication, UCSD.
Special Topics: News Media Workshop.
Special Topics: Journalism in a Time of Crisis.
- 2014-17 — Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Communication, UCSD.
Interpretive Strategies: political economy of representation through media.
Intro to Communication: communication technology, scholarship and theory.
Situated Practices: in communication.
Social Formation: political economy of media
Introduction to Urban Planning, Office of Urban Studies.
- Spring 2013 — Adjunct English Instructor, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2012-13 — Adjunct English Instructor, Eastern Michigan University
- 2010-11 — Teaching Assistant and events coordinator, Bathhouse Journal, Department of
English, Eastern Michigan University
- Spring 2010 — Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Rhetoric & Composition, San Diego State
University

Workshop and Seminars

- 2020 — Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning at Tulane, moving to hybrid teaching.
- 2020-21 Braid and Flow, Center for the Gulf South at Tulane.
- 2019 — "Anthropocene River Campus: The Human Delta," *Mississippi. An Anthropocene River*
Max Planck Institute and HKW (Haus der Kulturen Der Welt), hosted by The Center for
the Gulf South and Tulane ByWater Institute.
- 2016 — Science & Technology Studies California Summer Retreat, Marin Headlands, CA.
- 2010 — Disquiet Literary Seminar, Lisbon, Portugal.

2002 — Reporting on China from Shanghai & Hong Kong, UC Berkeley.

Professional Societies, Service and Committee Memberships

2024-25 Member, National Communication Association (NCA)

2024-25 Member, American Studies Association (ASA)

2022-24 Associate Editor, Journal of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences

2022-25 Member, Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences

2018-22 Cultural Studies Association (CSA)

Governing Board Member, 2019-22

Working Group, Co-Chair, Environment, Space and Place, 2019-21

Program Committee, 2020-21

Executive Board Member, 2019-20

Conference Site Committee, 2018

2021 — National Communication Association (NCA), Review Committee, Environmental Communication Division

2021 — Monroe Fellowship Selection Committee, Center for the Gulf South, Tulane University.

2021 — Ad-hoc reviewer, Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies.

2019 — Ad-hoc reviewer, Journalism and Mass Communication Educator, peer-reviewed journal.

2019-20 Member, Society of Social Studies of Science (4S)

2016-17 Member, Mid-American Studies Association

2017-18 Advisory Board Member, *The Triton*, Student Newspaper, UCSD

2015-16 Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Search Committee, UCSD

2015-15 Graduate Student Representative, CommPlayground, UCSD.

2011 — Volunteer at 826Michigan, a nonprofit writing and literacy program that provided in-class support at Roberto Clemente alternative high school

1999 — Fellow, The Institute of Politics, Loyola University, New Orleans.

Certificates

2017 — Certificate for Completion of CET Course Design Studio, UCSD

2016 — Certificate for Public Speaking, UCSD

Journalism and Professional Writing

2025-26 — SeaChange WWNO Podcast

2002-25 — *Reuters*, Stringer, 2002-2025

2008-09 — *San Diego Business Journal*, Staff Writer, 2008-09

2007-08 — *City News Service*, Stringer, San Diego, CA, 2007-08

2007-08 — *Video Business*, Stringer, San Diego, CA, 2007-08

2006-07 — *Union Tribune/North County Times*, Staff Writer, Escondido, CA, 2006-07

2003-06 — *The Advocate*, Staff Writer, Baton Rouge, LA, 2003-06

1997-2000 - Mayor's Office of Communication, Head Writer and Sr. Speechwriter, New Orleans

1995-97 — *Associated Press*, News Clerk, New Orleans, LA, 1995-97

Reporting Internships

2002 — *Financial Times*, San Francisco, CA, Summer 2002

2001 — *TIME*, Hong Kong, Summer 2001

2001 — *MarketWatch.com*, San Francisco, CA, Winter 2001
1996 — *Daily Union Democrat*, Sonoma, CA, Fall 1996
1993 — *Alexandria Town Talk*, Alexandria, LA, Summer 1993
1993 — *WWL-TV (CBS)*, New Orleans, LA, Spring 1993

News Honors

2010 — Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society
2009 — San Diego Press Club, 1st place, Non Daily Feature
2009 — San Diego Press Club, 1st place, Non Daily Science and Technology
2009 — San Diego Press Club, 1st place, Non Daily Architect and Design
2009 — Society of Professional Journalists San Diego, 2nd place Investigative
2009 — Society of Professional Journalists San Diego, 2nd place real estate
2008 — Society of Professional Journalists San Diego 2nd place breaking news online,
2008 — San Diego Press Club, 1st place feature non-daily.
2000 — Fellow, The Institute of Politics at Loyola University of New Orleans.