

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Ethics of Emerging Technologies · Indigenous Futurism · Decolonial Science · Community-engaged research · Data Governance · Genetic Engineering · Native and Pacific Cultural Studies

CURRENT POSITION

Postdoctoral Researcher

University of Arizona

Tucson, AZ

December 2022 - Present

I am currently a postdoctoral researcher working at the Native Nations Institute (Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, University of Arizona). I am working with Professor Stephanie Carroll on the implementation of CARE Principles of Indigenous Data Governance within data repositories.

EDUCATION

University of Washington

B.A. Communication. Minor: Disability Studies.

Seattle, WA

2010-2014

University of California San Diego

Ph.D. Communication.

La Jolla, CA

2014-2021

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Researcher

University of California San Diego

La Jolla, CA

Spring 2021 - Spring 2022

I worked as a postdoctoral researcher Dr. Bloss' social science lab within the School of Public Health at UCSD for one year. In this role I lead our lab's social science research on the Strong Heart Study, co-organized a workshop on interdisciplinary collaboration in gene drive research, and lead multiple co-authored publications.

Strong Heart Study Collaborator

Department of Biomedical Informatics, Bloss Lab (UCSD)

La Jolla, CA

Spring 2018 - Winter 2019; Spring 2021-Spring 2022

Former collaborator on the Strong Heart Study, the largest and longest-standing epidemiological study of cardiovascular risk in Native American tribes. I oversaw our team's community-engaged social science research, in which we are conducted interviews and focus groups with tribal communities and leaders to understand their perspectives on health data privacy, and improve the design of data sharing technologies with their inputs.

Dissertation Research: Indigenous Knowledge and Gene Drives

Department of Communication (UCSD)

La Jolla, CA

Summer 2020

My dissertation entitled, *Editing Islands: (Re)Imagining Isolation in Gene Drive Science and Engagement*, looked at the engagement of Indigenous communities within gene drive research and decision-making. I conducted ethnographic observation of community engagement events, as well as individual interviews with geneticists, conservationists, and Native Hawaiians about their perspectives on gene drive technologies, and analyzed guidance framework documents for their underlying values and principles about what constitutes ethical gene drive research.

Religious Values and Human Enhancement: A Study of Engineers and the Public

Department of Sociology, Dr. John Evans (UCSD)

La Jolla, CA

Summer 2020

I worked as a Graduate Student Researcher on Dr. John Evans' sociological study of religious values and human enhancement, funded by The Network for the Social Scientific Study of Science and Religion. I received training in interview design, conduct, and participant recruitment and conducted 30 in-depth interviews for the study.

Stakeholder Engagement in Novel Vector Control

Bloss Lab (UCSD)

La Jolla, CA

Fall 2018 - Winter 2019

I worked under the mentorship of Dr. Cindy Schairer (Bloss Lab) on a documentary analysis of stakeholder engagement activities in the field of novel vector control (NVC). We analyzed 14 documented examples of stakeholder engagement projects to develop a typology of engagement activities in NVC. I received training in the Atlas.ti program for qualitative analysis and contributed to the manuscript on our findings.

Somali Community Collaborative Design

Department of Biomedical Informatics, Department of Communication (UCSD)

City Heights, CA

2015 - 2017

I collaborated on community-based participatory research project with the Department of Biomedical Informatics, funded

by the National Institutes of Health. I contributed to the co-design of a mobile health (mHealth) pilot tool to address community-specific mental health needs.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Sarah Hartley, **Riley Taitingfong**, and Pedro Fidelman. *The principles driving gene drives for conservation*. Environmental Science and Policy. (2022).
 2. Cynthia, Triplett, Burgundy J. Fletcher, Ying Zhang, Tauqueer Ali, **Riley Taitingfong**, Lucila Ohno-Machado, and Cinnamon Bloss. *Co-designing a community based participatory research project to assess tribal perspectives on privacy and health data sharing: A report from the Strong Heart Study*. JAMIA. (2022)
 3. **Riley Taitingfong** and Anika Ullah. *Empowering Indigenous Knowledge in Deliberations on Gene-Editing in the Wild*. Hastings Center Report. (2021)
 4. **Riley Taitingfong**, Cinnamon S. Bloss, Cynthia Triplett, Julie Cakici, Nanibaa' Garrison, Julie A. Stoner, and Lucila Ohno-Machado. *A systematic literature review of Native American and Pacific Islanders' perspectives on health data privacy in the United States*. Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association. (2020).
 5. Caryn Kseniya Rubanovich, **Riley Taitingfong**, Cynthia Triplett, Ondrej Libiger, Nicholas J. Schork, Jennifer K. Wagner, and Cinnamon S. Bloss. *Impacts of personal DNA ancestry testing*. Journal of Community Genetics. (2020).
 6. Cynthia E. Schairer, **Riley Taitingfong**, Omar S. Akbari, and Cinnamon S. Bloss. *A typology of community and stakeholder engagement based on documented examples in the field of novel vector control*. PLoS Neglected Tropical Disease. (2019).
 7. **Riley Taitingfong**. *Islands as Laboratories: Indigenous Knowledge and Gene Drives in the Pacific*. Human Biology. (2019).
- Forthcoming:
8. **Riley Taitingfong**, Cynthia Triplett, Váleri N. Vásquez, Ramya Rajagopalan, Gerard Terradas, ... et al. *Exploring the Value of a Global Gene Drive Project Registry*. Accepted at Nature Biotechnology. (Manuscript available upon request).
 9. Tiara Na'puti and **Riley Taitingfong**. *Unsettling Intercultural Communication: Settler Militarism and Indigenous Resistance in Oceania*. Invited chapter in the Handbook of Critical Intercultural Communication (2nd Edition). Accepted for publication (Manuscript available upon request).
 10. **Riley Taitingfong** and David Taitingfong. *PIFA: CHamoru Identity and Everyday Militarism in San Diego*. Detours Guåhan. Accepted for publication. (Manuscript available upon request).
 11. **Riley Taitingfong**, Cynthia Triplett, Burgundy J. Fletcher, Tyler Bath, Jessica Chapman, Jihoon Kim, ... et al. *Facilitating Tribal Data Access in the Strong Heart Study: Collaborative Design of the "Data into Heart Health Action Dashboard"*. In preparation. (Manuscript available upon request).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. Natalie Kofler and **Riley Taitingfong**. *Advances in genetic engineering test democracy's capacity for good decision-making*. The Boston Globe. (2020).

HONORS & AWARDS

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| Presidents Dissertation Year Fellowship (UC Office of the President) | 2019 |
| <i>Dissertation Title: Editing 'Āina: Indigenous Knowledge and Gene Drives in the Pacific.</i> | |
| Speculative Futures Research Grant Recipient (UCSD Speculative Futures Collective) | 2019 |
| <i>Proposal Title: Editing the 'Āina: Scientific Appropriations of Pacific Islands as Laboratories.</i> | |
| UC Chancellor's Interdisciplinary Collaboratory awardee (Bloss Lab, UCSD) | 2019 |
| <i>Project Title: Ethical Practices in Citizen-Driven Genomics Research.</i> | |
| Gene Drives Working Group PhD Fellow (UCSD Institute for Practical Ethics) | 2018 |
| <i>Project Title: Understanding Native Hawaiian Perspectives on Gene Drive Technologies.</i> | |

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES & SELECT PRESENTATIONS

1. Genome Writers Guild Annual Conference. Invited speaker, July 2022: *Responsibly Apply Biotechnology: Three Lessons for Good Community Engagement*
2. Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) GeneConvene Virtual Institute. Invited panelist, April 2021: *Field testing site selection: Including social criteria among other criteria for selecting field sites for testing gene drive organisms.*
3. Student/Young Pugwash UK webinar on Science and Indigenous Peoples. Invited Speaker, November 2020: *Islands as Laboratories: Indigenous Knowledge and Gene Drives in the Pacific.*

4. Genetic Biocontrol of Invasive Rodents (GBIRD) Annual Meeting. Invited Speaker, November 2020: *Engaging Indigenous Peoples in Gene Drive Decisions*.
5. CRISPRcon, Invited Panelist, October 2020: *Gene editing, conservation and climate justice: Adaptation, mitigation, and conservation strategies in a changing world*.
6. Anthropology in Transit Graduate Conference (UC Irvine), February 2020: *Engineering Island Laboratories: Gene drive and the myth of isolation*.
7. Summer Institute for Indigenous Genomics (SING) Inaugural Conference (Aotearoa New Zealand), January 2020: *Indigenizing Gene Drive Research*.
8. Speculative Futures of Ecologies and Climate Change Symposium (UC San Diego), November 2019: *Editing 'Āina: Appropriations of Pacific Islands as Laboratories*.
9. American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Conference (Milwaukee, WI), October 2019: *Islands as Laboratories*.
10. Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) Conference (Aotearoa New Zealand), June 2019: *Editing 'Āina: Conservation Gene Drives in Hawai'i*.
11. Active Genetics Monthly Meeting (UC San Diego), April 2019: *Editing 'Āina: Indigenous Knowledge and Conservation Gene Drives in Hawai'i*.
12. Institute for Practical Ethics Gene Drive Working Group Meeting (UC San Diego), January 2019: *Editing 'Āina: Conservation Gene Drives in Hawai'i*.
13. Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science Seminar (University of Hawai'i, Hilo), September 2018: *Community Engagement and Gene Drives: Challenges and ethical considerations*.
14. UC Campus Climate Workshop Co-Presenter (UC Irvine), April 2018: *Creating Inclusive Pedagogy*.
15. Comics and Medicine Conference Co-Presenter (Seattle, WA), June 2017: *Care and Vulnerability in Co-Design of Graphic Narrative Interventions for Refugee Mental Wellness*.
16. UC Collaboratory for Ethnographic Design (CoLED) Conference Co-Presenter (UC San Diego), October 2016: *Exploring Concepts of Care and Vulnerability in the Co-Design of Health Interventions*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer: *COMM 102C: Community Engagement Practicum*. UC San Diego. (Fall 2022)

Co-Instructor of Record: *Ditching the Deficit Model: Science Communication for Ethical Community Engagement*. Harvard Medical School. (Fall 2021; Fall 2022)

Co-Instructor of Record: *Environmental Ethics and Justice*. Harvard Medical School. (J-Term 2021, 2022)

Instructor of Record: *COMM 108D: Politics of Bodies: Disability*. UC San Diego. (Fall 2020)

Invited Guest Lecture: *COMM 145 (Special Topics): History, Memory, and Popular Culture*. UC San Diego. Presentation: Pedagogy as a project (and site of resistance) of settler colonialism. (Fall 2019)

Invited Guest Lecture: *SOCI 30: Intro to Science Studies*. UC San Diego. Presentation: Engineering Island Laboratories: Gene drive in the Pacific. (Fall 2019)

Invited Guest Lecture: *Graduate Seminar on Cultural Psychology*. San Diego State University. Presentation: Communities as partners in (not subjects of) research: An intro to Community-Based Participatory Research. (Fall 2018, Fall 2019)

Senior Teaching Assistant: *Department of Communication*, UC San Diego. (AY 2017-2018)

Instructor: *Warren Writing Program*, UC San Diego. (AY 2017-2018)

Teaching Assistant: *COMM 100B, Interpretive Strategies*: Led weekly discussion sections for 60 students. UC San Diego. (Winter 2016, Winter 2017)

Teaching Assistant: *COMM 100C: Communication as a Social Force*. Led weekly discussion sections for 75 students. UC San Diego. (Spring 2016, Spring 2017)

Teaching Assistant: *HDP 1: Intro to Human Development*. Led weekly discussion sections for 60 students. UC San Diego. (Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2019)

MEMBERSHIP

Summer internship for Indigenous peoples in Genomics (SING) (Member)

2019-Present

American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) (Member)

2019-Present

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) (Member)

2018-Present

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Mutual Aid UCSD: Core organizer for Mutual Aid UCSD, a non-hierarchical, autonomous student and staff collective organizing to support students, staff, and contingent faculty members in need of emergency food, finances, and/or academic and social support in the pandemic and beyond. (Spring 2020-Spring 2021)

Black Surf Week: Attendee of Black Surf Week, a program of the Black Like Water Project which addresses Black fluidity of identity, relationships to land and water. UC San Diego. (Fall 2019, Summer 2020, Fall 2021)

Native Like Water: Guest speaker at Native Like Water Intertribal Youth Program, which prepares Indigenous youth and adult volunteers in science, outdoor education, conservation, wellness, and cultural self-exploration. UCSD. (July 2018)

REFERENCES

Upon request