



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Art
Molly Cashion

Will defend her scientific paper

**Integral Connections: Bridging Religion-Science Boundaries in
Environmental Education Camps in Alabama**

Abstract

Christian culture in the Southeastern United States has historically impacted science education and can be studied as manifestation of the broader controversy between religion and science. I analyze two secular environmental education centers that emerged from and share physical space with Christian summer camps to ask how educators perceive and navigate the social culture of Christianity in the South when they design and implement the secular camps. The sharing of space in the camps and the characteristic challenges of environmental education in the US South are discussed. I combine sustainability science literature on boundary-work, and Integral Ecology to frame my inquiry on the physical, social, and imaginary dimensions of science-religion, and objective-subjective boundaries. Understanding how these boundaries are bridged by educators can help to: (1) improve the design and implementation of environmental camps, (2) promote the use of religion and spirituality as tools for advancing sustainability, and (3) contribute to the larger bridging of perspectives advocated by Integral Ecology.

Thursday, April 7, 2016
10:30am - 12:00pm
Wrigley Hall 481

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. David Manuel-Navarrete, Chair
Dr. Sonja Klinsky, Member
Dr. Karen Smith, Member