



In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

**Doctor of Philosophy**  
**Katie Thompson**

will defend her prospectus

**Recognizing loss to support social transformation**

Tuesday, November 24, 2020  
10:00 AM, MST

<https://asu.zoom.us/j/6217319888>

Faculty, students, and the public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:  
Dr. Sonja Klinsky, Chair  
Dr. David Manuel-Navarrete, Member  
Dr. Evan Berry, Member

**Abstract**

Losses associated with climate change and environmental destruction have come to light over the last decade but much research on this issue is still needed. Within the context of sustainability, identifying how losses are recognized, categorized, and understood can provide important opportunities for supporting social transformation. While the vast majority of loss research focuses attention on communities facing the most severe environmental impacts, I propose focusing my research on less-impacted communities who wield a different set of capacities and power—these communities are an important element of the conversation for transformation as change requires efforts from all those who hold agency and the burden of change should not fall exclusively upon communities who are already over-burdened. In order to better understand how to recognize loss and its potential for social transformation, I propose a three-part study including autoethnography, community action research (PAR), and a theoretical analysis of existing loss research.