



MIGRATION IN HARMONY
Research Coordination Network

GET TO KNOW DR. MARCY ROCKMAN

CLIMATE HERITAGE POLICY EXPERT

Dr. Macy Rockman is an archaeologist-geologist by training who works to integrate cultural heritage into climate policy.

Her academic research looks at how humans learn, remember, and share information about unfamiliar environments, , particularly during colonization. She's used this to address situations as diverse as cultural resource management in the American Southwest and homeland security risk communication in Washington, DC.

Marcy Rockman PhD is an archaeologist-geologist by training. From 2011-2018 she served with the U.S. National Park Service as Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator for Cultural Resources. She now works with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on projects to better integrate cultural heritage into international climate response, such as reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and with the nonprofit organization Co-Equal to help provide climate research to the U.S. Congress.

We interviewed Marcy to learn more about how she uses the past to inform climate policy.





WHY DO YOU **DO WHAT YOU DO?**

"More than half my life ago I stood in a recycling truck on my undergraduate college campus and tried to figure out why some people didn't want to sort their recyclables. I realized one of the things I needed to know was where contemporary values of time versus natural resources have come from. To learn where these values had come from, I needed the past. So I became an archaeologist, and trying to find new ways to use our knowledge of the past **to help solve modern environmental challenges has always seemed to be the most powerful I could do.**"

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU ARE PROFESSIONAL **PROUD** OF?

"When I was with the National Park Service, I created a project called "**Every Place has a Climate Story**" to help park rangers talk about climate change in any park. It combined cultural heritage, climate change, and place with scientific storytelling, and it's become the most popular thing I've done both inside and outside of the NPS. I'm proud of it because it seems to be a way to help people engage with climate change in a way that is creative and not scary. "

- A brief overview of the project is in the NPS Cultural Resources Climate Change Strategy, available here: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/culturalresourcesstrategy.htm>
- A full article about it is published in Public Archaeology and Climate Change (apologies, this article is not open access). <https://www.oxbowbooks.com/oxbow/public-archaeology-and-climate-change.html>





WHAT AREA OF RESEARCH ARE YOU **MOST EXCITED** ABOUT?

"There is now just getting underway a major international initiative to integrate knowledge from and about culture and heritage more fully with reports and assessments of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). For basically all of my career so far, archaeology and heritage have been invisible or just held as side components of climate change science and response. This initiative has the potential to really elevate culture and heritage in the global approach to climate science and policy – I don't want to jinx it here, but am so excited to see what may be possible with and following on from this project."

WE ALL STAND
ON THE
SHOULDERS OF
GIANTS – WHO
HAS INSPIRED
YOU?

"I'm endlessly inspired by the work of SCAPE in Scotland and their citizen science and community engagement projects around archeology and coastal erosion (link: <https://scapetrust.org>). They set archaeology and heritage as things that everyone can and should see and touch and watch, not something set on a shelf for experts to talk about. And by starting with history and archaeology, they've found ways to hold large conversations about what is valued and wanted in the future - which is the most hopeful form of climate change adaptation planning I have seen."



WHY IS THE MIGRATION IN HARMONY RESEARCH COORDINATION NETWORK SO IMPORTANT?

“The world we live in now is the result of many past migrations, large and small. Each of those migrations required learning how to live in a new environment. Now, as modern anthropogenic climate change develops ever more rapidly, even for those of us who aren’t displaced or need to move, we’re all going to have learn to live in new environments as the world changes around us. Being able to learn from and about past migrations about how to learn to live in new places could not be more important.”



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