
University of Southern Indiana Center for Communal Studies Annual Report 2022-2023

Zoom Meeting <https://usi.zoom.us/j/94844410548>

Meeting ID: 948 4441 0548

Director

Dr. Silvia Rode (Professor of German and Assistant Dean, College of Liberal Arts, USI)

Administrative Assistant

Ms. Abby Yates

Board Members

Dr. Franziska Bechtel (Consultant, Diaconal Education Frankfurt, Germany); Dr. Gregory W. Brown (Retired Principal Christa McCauliffe Alternative Middle School); Ms. Jennifer Greene (Archivist Librarian, USI); Dr. Donald E. Janzen (Retired Consulting); Dr. Jane Johansen (Professor Emerita of Business Communications, USI); Dr. Joshua Lockyer (Professor of Anthropology, Arkansas Tech University); Dr. Susan Matarese (Professor Emerita of Political Science, University of Louisville); Dr. Carol Medicott (Associate Professor of Geography, Northern Kentucky University); Mr. Graham Perry (Curator of Social History, Tennessee State Museum); Dr. Donald Pitzer (Professor Emeritus of History, Director Emeritus Center for Communal Studies, USI); Dr. Michael Strezewski (Associate Professor of Anthropology, USI); Ms. Leslie Townshend (Director Community Engagement, USI); Ms. Wendy Bredhold (Senior Campaign Representative, Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, Indiana and Kentucky); Dr. Kristalyn Shefvland (Associate Professor of History, USI)

Ex officio

Dr. Del Doughty (Dean, College of Liberal Arts, USI); Dr. Jason Hardgrave (Associate Professor and Chair of History Department, USI); Ms. Marna Hostetler (Director Rice Library, USI)

Center Location

University of Southern Indiana, University Archives and Special Collections (David L. Rice Library, Communal Studies Reading Room 3022)

I. Welcoming New Board Members

The Center welcomed two new members to the board: Dr. Kristalyn Shefvland, Associate Professor of History and Dr. Del Doughty, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

II. Fall Board Meeting

The fall 2022 board meeting minutes are included in the annual report. As part of the fall meeting, board members participated in a MINKA tour on the USI campus; Dr. Joshua Lockyer's presented his lecture on Celso; and Rode hosted a reception at her home.

III. Center Budget

The Center for Communal Studies budget for the academic year 2022/23 remained the same (\$11,049.87). This year's spending included: two board meetings and hospitality, a graduate prize and research travel grant, three guest lecture honoraria, research travel funding for Jennifer Greene, advertising materials for the CSA conference, four advertisements in the *Communities Magazine*, and archival supplies.

IV. CCS Prize Winners

Dr. Ashley Rattner, Assistant Professor of English at Jacksonville State University is the recipient of the *2023 CCS Research Travel Grant* (\$2,000). She intends to visit the CS archives and New Harmony this summer to expand her chapter on Robert Owen's New Harmony experiment and to complete her book manuscript entitled, *The Crass Materiality of Utopia: Publishing Communitarian Reform in Nineteenth Century America*.

Ms. Monica Bhatia, Ph.D. graduate student at the University of Texas, Austin, Department of Sociology & Urban Ethnography Lab. is the recipient of the *2023 CCS Graduate Prize* (\$500). Her winning article is entitled, *Work and Sustainability at Twin Oaks Intentional Community*.

- Please note that the Center did not award a 2023 CCS undergraduate prize.
- CCS has expanded soliciting submissions to include architecture, urban planning, political science, future studies, art and language departments.
- I want to express my gratitude to the following board members who reviewed the proposals and selected the winners: Carol Medlicott, Joshua Lockyer, Jennifer Greene, Graham Perry, Greg Brown.

V. Lectures and Film

Oct 20, 2022, Dr. Joshua Lockyer, Professor of Anthropology at Arkansas Tech University, and recipient of the *2021 Communal Studies Association Timothy Miller Outstanding Book Award*, presented on *Seeing Like a Commons. Eight Years of Intentional Community Building and Commons Stewardship in Celo, North Carolina* in USI's Kley Meyer Hall. Lecture participation was also available via zoom.

March 21, 2023, Dr. Sophie Fetthauer, Professor of Musicology at the University of Music and Theatre in Hamburg, Germany, presented on *Jewish Refugee Musicians in 1930s Shanghai*.

April 28, 2023, *The Bergamot Film Group* screened *State of the Unity* in the Wilson Theater in New Harmony. The film won the Sedona International Film Festival.

VI. Center Promotion and Advertisement

Ms. Carolyn Zullo, Liberal Arts Marketing and Events Coordinator, implement the following CCS website changes:

- More graphics and colorful event advertisements, including audio recordings.
- Lecture poster and book hotlinks
- Updates to the resources page

- Interview with Dr. Harison, Director of the Center for Communal Studies (emeritus) and Research Travel Grant recipient Dr. Freeman
- More visuals for Communal Studies minor page
- Twitter account
- Minutes and bylaws tab

521 List Serv memberships

VII. New Research Resources and Engagement Opportunities

Interviews with authors. Dr. Pitzer, Director of the Center for Communal Studies (emeritus), interviewed Dr. Greg Brown (*Matchsticks Contemplating Eternity: Life, Death, and Faith in What Is*), Dr. Rahima Schwenkbeck (*The Business of Marketing, Entrepreneurship, and Architecture of Communal Societies in the 1960s and 1970s*) and Dr. Joshua Lockyer (*Seeing Like a Commons: Eighty Tears of Intentional Community Building and Commons Stewardship in Celo, North Carolina*). The interviews are posted on the CCS website.

Ms. Diana Matthews, Project Director Indiana University Health on Aging and Intentional Communities and a member of the Padanaram, visited the Center for Communal Studies and the MINKA project.

Dr. Betsy Morris and Dr. Raines Cohen, FIC Board Members and Community Planning Consultants on Sustainable and Affordable Housing, Berkeley, California, visited the CCS and the MINKA project.

Conversations with the Institutes for Future Studies and possible lecture at USI next year:

- *Institute for Future Studies and Technology Evaluation (izt), Berlin*
<http://www.izt.de/en/>
- *Free University, Berlin, (Master's in Future Studies and Education)* <https://www.ewi-psy.fu-berlin.de/en/v/master-zukunftsforschung/index.html>
- *Institute for Future Studies, Copenhagen, Denmark* <https://cifs.dk/regenerate-now/>
Regenerate now – Shifting perspectives.

VIII. Collection Development Report

Greene and Rode met with members of the intentional community's research group *Diggers and Dreamers Collective*, based in Wales and England via zoom. The group is interested in organizational aspects of the Center archives.

Kristalyn Shefveland discussed the Center as a possible depository with Raghunath Cappo, co-founder of the *Supersoul Yoga and Farm*.

Compendio Archivo Ruz Mexico, Ecovillage (est. 1982) contacted Jennifer Greene about housing their collection in the CS archives.

- Ongoing discussions with Beverly Seckinger (filmmaker) on CCS becoming a repository for her films.
- Foundation for Intentional Communities (FIC) Harvey Baker provided minutes from FIC for the Center collection 1987-2001. Materials can be accessed online.

- Doris Dorn, *York Center Co-op* donated the community's minutes and records from 1959-2015. Also included are newsletters, organizational documents, events, and legal filings.
- *Appletree* (Oregon) sent more boxes of materials to the Center.
- Mark Tuttle sent materials on the *Bruderhof*, including video, stills, and some printed materials. Greene is requesting estimates for the digitization of the materials.
- Fred Cook has photographs of intentional communities along the West Coast of North America - from Baja California to Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. His research was published in *Earth Community* by Susan Campbell. CS archives hopes to receive the photos. <https://susancampbell.com/product/earth-community-living-experiments-in-cultural-transformation/>
- CCS received materials from *Lake Village Homesteads* in Kalamazoo, MI. Writings by founder Roger Ulrich.
- Hossam ElGohl, graduate assistant, developed a tracking system for CS collections. This will help to better identify the chronology of materials sent, names of senders (present and past) and delivery dates. It will assist in reaching out to communities to update records and increase materials for the collections.

Requests/circulation

Public	21
Faculty/Staff	15
students	45

Sample of requests:

Nick Fiori & Lauren Cutuli are working with the Gordon family from *Skyview Acres* on a family history. Scanned and forwarded materials. The Center will receive a copy of the publication.

Cleo Christensen at UCLA is teaching a course on communal living in the 1960s. Greene offered to be an embedded librarian and assist with resource finding.

IX. More Archival Development

Don Janzen sent materials on LBGTO+ communities, which include but are not limited to event flyers, webpage screen casts, interviews, and articles about a variety of communities. These materials are important for understanding how communities are interacting and their involvement with larger communities. Materials have been in digital and hardcopy formats. Community finding aids have been updated. Still looking at keyword descriptors to improve access.

Don Janzen

Phalanx Research

- 12 communities referenced in Harbinger newspaper.
- 24 groups articles
- Articles on groups forming/Industrial Union
- 66 total articles

Downloads

- 13 community posters
- 94 articles

- 3 revised articles

In 2022, Greene received funding to visit three intentional communities. 1) *Twin Oaks* expressed interest in collaborating with USI instead of the University of Virginia archives. Greene will conduct a follow-up visit next summer. 2) *Shannon Farm* digital back catalogs. 3) *Acorn Community* (Louisa County, Virginia) will be sending catalogs. The community had no knowledge that USI houses the CCS. Greene will be partnering with Acorn. Greene also reported that the University of Virginia never responded to her inquest.

X. Academic / Research Engagement and Outreach

- Publication: Rousselière, Damien. *Alphadelphia (1844-1848): à propos de la dynamique des disputes dans une communauté fouriériste américaine*. In: *Histoire, économie & société* 2023/1 (42e année), pages 28 à 46. The author thanked Dr. Janzen for his photos that are included in the article.
- UNIV 101 New Harmony Experience, September 13, 2022. (CCS Board volunteers: Strezewski, Pitzer and Rode). Provost Khayum approved UNIV 101 New Harmony experience for 2023.
- NH 1st Fact Sheet UNIV
- Rode conducted information session with Gender Studies on Janzen's LGBTQ+ collection.
- Rode presented on the Center for Communal Studies and intentional communities at the following events:
 - *International Communal Studies Conference (ICSA)* in Denmark July 2022
 - *MINKA* Board meeting, November 2022
 - *Historic New Harmony* Board meeting February 2023
- Center serves as Fulbright sponsor for Paola Ferruta, PhD. Associate to the IHTP, Aubervilliers and Centre Roland Mousnier, University Paris-Sorbonne, France. (New Harmony through the prism of everyday life: a gender issue, with special focuses on the second communal experience).
- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Grant (\$60,000): Kristalyn Shefveland, Laurel Standiford Reyes, Silvia Rode. "Community Collaboration and Reparative Justice in Rural Posey County, Indiana" Humanities Content and Activities (submitted Fall 2022)
- Greg Brown (Chair), Lockyer and Rode serve on the program committee for the *Communal Studies Association Conference (CSA)* New Harmony and USI, October 5-7, 2023.
- Hosting Dr. Claudia Roesch, Research Fellow, *German Historical Institute*, Washington, July 2023.
- Townshend and Rode volunteered for HNH Christmas Tours and Heritage Day.

XI. Other items

- Continue development of courses for the communal studies minor (1 student will be graduating with a CCS minor in 2023)
- Prizes: changed name from "travel grant" to "travel research grant"
- Submissions: defined the "age" of article for prize submission. Board unanimously agreed to establish written guidelines for the CCS prizes and grant submissions.
- Defined length of postponement for travel grant visit

XII. Review of Bylaws (for Fall Board meeting)

Board of Advisors: The Board is an advisory body. Board membership shall be determined by invitation of the current Board and is immediately effective. Vacancies and new positions on the Board are filled by invitation and approved by a majority of the Board. The Board consists of no less than eight (8) members, and no upper limit of members. Board members serve renewable, staggered, four-year terms.

Expectations for Board Members

- 1) A Center for Communal Studies Advisory Board member should have a keen interest in the promotion and study of contemporary and historic communal groups, intentional communities, and utopias. Furthermore, Advisory Board members should encourage and facilitate meetings, classes, scholarship, networking, and public interest in communal groups past and present, here, and abroad.
- 2) An Advisory Board member should be aware and supportive of the relationship of Historic New Harmony, the University of Southern Indiana, and the Center for Communal Studies.
- 3) An Advisory Board member should make a commitment to attend the bi-annual board meetings and in advance of the meeting become familiar with material related to discussions.
- 4) An Advisory Board member should attend Center for Communal Studies sponsored events and activities.
- 5) An Advisory Board member should be willing to participate in committee work from time to time.
- 6) An Advisory Board member should be willing to assist in identifying and recruiting other members who have the ability to meet the expectations of the members serving on the board.

Director: The Director is appointed by the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts from the Liberal Arts faculty. Faculty interested in the directorship apply to the Board of Advisors who shall forward the recommendation to the dean. The Director of the Center for Communal Studies is the permanent Chair of the Board. The Director issues an annual report by the end of the spring semester and fulfills the purposes identified in Article 1, Section 2.

Permanent Members of the Board: The Center Director, the David L. Rice Library Archives Librarian, and a representative from Historic New Harmony are Permanent Members of the Board.

Expectations for the Director and Archivist

The director and the archivist should be advocates for the Center for Communal Studies and be willing to connect with scholars and identify sources of support.

XIII. Elections

The following CCS board members were confirmed unanimously to serve on the CCS board for another 4-year term.

Dr. Franziska Bechtel
Ms. Jennifer Greene
Dr. Michael Strezewski
Dr. Susan Matarese

Dr. Jane Johnsen handed in her resignation, effective June 15, 2023. As a token of appreciation, board members signed Dr. Pitzer's "Now and Then" New Harmony book which was sent to Dr. Johansen with the following letter:

Dear Jane,

I regret to hear about your resignation, but I highly respect your decision.

We are grateful for all the years you have dedicated to the Center for Communal Studies. Your service to reviewing grant and prize submissions, your "eagle-eyes" when it came to updating Bylaws are just a few examples of how your expertise and commitment helped raise the excellence and visibility of the Center.

A wholehearted thank you and we wish you all the best for the future.

Sincerely,

Silvia Rode, Director CCS

The board voted to grant a life-long ex officio board membership to form CCS board directors.

XIV. Open Items

Director requests suggests for new board members by September 1, 2023.

ADDENDUM
BOARD OF ADVISORS
Scholarly Publications, Presentations, Teaching, and Awards 2022-2023

Book

Medlicott, Carol. *This Chosen Pleasant Hill: Shakers of the Kentucky Bluegrass*, co-authored with Christian Goodwillie (Rochester, NY: Stragglng Tremblor Press, November 2022).

Peer-Review Articles

Rubin, Zach, Joshua Lockyer, and Chelsea Schelley. "The Paradoxes of Collective Climate Action in Rural U.S. Ecovillages: Ethnographic Reflections and Perspectives." Presentation at the Communal Studies Association annual conference. Canterbury, NH. October 1, 2022.

Rode, Silvia. "Harmonist Women: Millennial Messenger, Seductress and Industrialist." *That Wonder of the West. New Harmony on the Wabash*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, (forthcoming)

Strezewski, Michael. "'An excellent house of private entertainment:' The Harmonist Tavern 1815-1825." *That Wonder of the West. New Harmony on the Wabash*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, (forthcoming)

Essay

Medlicott, Carol. "Contact Tracing: Reflections on *Shaker Fever* Amid Pandemic Lockdowns," *Communal Societies* 41:1-2 (2021).

Presentations

Brown, Greg. Round Table Participant, "World Religions: Exploring Diversity," USI

Medlicott, Carol. "Musical Expressions of Mother's Work: Continuity and Rupture," *Communal Studies Association Conference*, Canterbury, New Hampshire, October 2022

Medlicott, Carol. "Shaker Legacy in Warren County, Ohio," Warren County Historical Society 'Lunch and Learn' Lecture Series, March 22, 2022.

Rode, Silvia. "Über-Communities." *International Communal Studies Association (ICSA)*. Skanderborg, Denmark, July 2022

Rode, Silvia. "Plenary Session Communal Studies Network." *International Communal Studies Association Conference (ICSA)*. Skanderborg, Denmark, July 2022

Rode, Silvia. "The Center for Communal Studies." *Historic New Harmony Board Meeting*, February 2023

Strezewski, Michael. "Uncovering the Harmonist Church." (Invited lecture) *Illinois State Museum and Historic Sites lecture series*, New Harmony, Indiana. December 17, 2022

Strezewski, Michael. "New Harmony Tavern." (Invited lecture) *Southwestern Indiana Historical Society*

and Willard Library. Evansville, April 19, 2022.

Interviews

- Pitzer, Donald. Recorded Interview with Dr. Gregory Brown and his new Book "Matchsticks Contemplating Eternity: Life, Death, and Faith in What Is." CCS Website, 2022
- Pitzer, Donald. Recorded Interview with Dr. Rahima Schwenkbeck and her new book "The Business of Marketing, Entrepreneurship, and Architecture of Communal Societies in the 1960s and 1970s." CCS Website, 2023
- Rode, Silvia. (USI Interview) "Intentional Communities in the U.S.A. and Europe." *bOLDer Views and GWEP News MINKA Learning Lab*, USI. Evansville, IN Volume 2, Issue 2 (2022):12

Grant Applications

- Rode, Silvia. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Grant (\$60,000). "Community Collaboration and Reparative Justice in Rural Posey County, Indiana" Humanities Content and Activities (submitted Fall 2022)
- Shefveland, Kristalyn. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Grant (\$60,000. "Community Collaboration and Reparative Justice in Rural Posey County, Indiana" Humanities Content and Activities (submitted Fall 2022)

Fulbright Sponsorship

- Rode, Silvia. For Paola Ferruta, PhD. Associate IHTP, Paris FMS, Project for the Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (S-I-R). "New Harmony at the Prism of Everyday Life: A Gender Issue."

Reports

- Strezewski, Michael. *Excavations at the Site of the 1816 Harmonist Church (12Po894)*, New Harmony, Indiana. University of Southern Indiana Archaeology Laboratory, Reports of Investigations 21-02. Submitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indianapolis, Indiana. 2022
- Strezewski, Michael. *Phase Ia Reconnaissance at the New Harmony Mounds Site (12-Po-206)*, New Harmony, Indiana. University of Southern Indiana Archaeology Laboratory, Reports of Investigations 21-01. Submitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indianapolis, Indiana. 2022

Awards, Promotions, Board Memberships

- Brown, Greg. Board of Directors, Communal Studies Association (CSA)
- Lockyer, Joshua. Promotion to Professor of Anthropology. Arkansas Tech University, 2022
- Pitzer, Don. Research Scholar for Historic New Harmony's Lilly Religion and Cultural Institution Planning Grant, 2022
- Rode, Silvia. Advisory Board Member, MINKA (Learning Lab for Living Well Community)
- Rode, Silvia. Advisory Board, Historic New Harmony
- Rode, Silvia. Director, Center for Communal Studies, USI
- Shefveland, Kristalyn. College of Liberal Arts Faculty Service Award, 2023

Committees

- Brown, Greg. Program Chair, *50th Conference of the Communal Studies Association (CSA)*, New Harmony, October 2023
- Brown, Greg. Member Religious Studies Program Committee, USI
- Brown, Greg. Member "Past and Futures in Alternative Spiritualities" Working Group, Program for the Evolution of Spirituality, Harvard
- Lockyer, Joshua. Program Committee Member, *50th Conference of the Communal Studies Association (CSA)*, New Harmony, October 2023
- Medlicott, Carol. Board Member, Enfield Shaker Museum, Appointed October 2022.
- Rode, Silvia. UNIV Freshmen Seminar Committee New Harmony, USI

Rode, Silvia. Program Committee Member, *50th Conference of the Communal Studies Association (CSA)*,
New Harmony, October 2023

Shefveland, Kristalyn. UNIV Freshmen Seminar Committee New Harmony, USI

[Teaching](#)

Brown, Greg. Class Lecture, *Prevention of Violence through Education*," ARTD 399, USI

Shefveland, Kristalyn. *Yoga History* (200HR Teacher Training), Yoga101 Evansville, Spring and Fall 2022-

23