

Eric Glenn Knackmuhs  
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### EDUCATION

- 2017      Doctor of Philosophy. Leisure Behavior, School of Public Health-Bloomington, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN  
Dissertation: The influence of policy narratives on policy preferences and interpretive outcomes at heritage sites.  
Minor: Telecommunications (Renamed Media Arts and Sciences)
- 2011      Master of Science. Resource Interpretation, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX  
Thesis: But does it work? The impact of social media on interpretive outcomes and place attachment at San Francisco Bay Area parks.
- 2003      Bachelor of Arts. English, Bates College, Lewiston, ME

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2023 – present      Associate Professor, School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport, College of Health and Human Services, Western Kentucky University
- 2017 – 2023      Assistant Professor, School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport, College of Health and Human Services, Western Kentucky University
- 2016 – 2017      Visiting Lecturer, Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies, School of Public Health-Bloomington, Indiana University
- 2015 – 2016      Fellow, Ostrom Workshop for Political Theory and Policy Analysis, Indiana University
- 2013 – 2015      Associate Instructor, Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies, School of Public Health-Bloomington, Indiana University

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2012 - 2013      Park Guide, National Park Service, Death Valley National Park, CA**  
Researched, wrote, and delivered one hour interpretive and educational tours of historic home known as Scotty's Castle. Incorporated a variety of interpretive techniques to reach different learning styles and increase opportunities for audience to learn by engaging in resource meanings.

- 2012**                    **Park Ranger, National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, NC**  
Conducted research on historical and natural resources to develop and deliver a variety of interpretive and educational talks, demonstrations, and field programs. Employed multiple techniques to accommodate different learning styles in order to create learning opportunities for audience members ranging from children to seniors. Delivered experiential educational field programs by teaching families and individuals coastal geology, ecology, snorkeling and fishing.
- 2007 - 2012**           **Historical Interpreter, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, Alcatraz Night Tour, San Francisco, CA**  
Researched and delivered variety of interpretive and educational programs. Served as internship coordinator for Linking Individuals to Natural Communities (LINC) program. Recruited, hired, trained, and evaluated high school and college student interns. Taught interpretive theory and technique, history, and park operations. Mentored students and coached them through their first public speaking experiences. Managed kids tours, developed curriculum based programs from California state guidelines. Hosted monthly professional development workshops using Socratic Method to engage coworkers in critical thinking about the role, importance, and impact of interpretive and educational theory and practice.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Courses Taught

#### *Western Kentucky University*

REC 200 Recreation in Society (3 cr.)

Fall 2017 (35); Spring 2018 (24); Fall 2018 (33); Spring 2019 (27); Fall 2019 (27);  
Spring 2020 (40); Fall 2020 (28); Spring 2021 (25); Spring 2022 (37); Fall 2022 (25);  
Fall 2023 (26); Fall 2024 (18)

REC 235 Outdoor Recreation Activities (3 cr.)

Spring 2023 (15); Spring 2024 (14)

REC 320 Professional Development in Recreation (3 cr.)

Fall 2022 (9); Fall 2023 (20)

REC 330 Foundations of Outdoor Recreation (3 cr.)

Spring 2021 (12)

REC 338 Parks, Recreation, & Quality of Life (3 cr.)

Spring 2019 (29); Fall 2019 (33); Spring 2020 (35); Summer 2020 (10); Fall 2020 (35);  
Spring 2021 (35); Summer 2021 (20); Fall 2021 (37); Spring 2022 (33); Summer 2022  
(4); Fall 2022 (47); Fall 2023 (48); Winter 2024 (15); Summer 2024 (15); Fall 2024 (39)

REC 404 Recreation Facility Management (3 cr.)  
Spring 2018 (35)

REC 406 Recreation Administration (3 cr.)  
Fall 2017 (31); Fall 2018 (36,); Fall 2019 (28); Fall 2020 (15) and Fall 2021 (14)

REC 426 Facility Planning & Design (3 cr.)  
Winter 2021 (5); Winter 2022 (3)

REC 434 Interpreting America's National Parks (3 cr.)  
Spring 2018 (15); Spring 2019 (11); Spring 2020 (10); Summer 2021 (5); Fall 2021 (36);  
Spring 2023 (37); Spring 2024 (32); Summer 2024 (6); Fall 2024 (27)

REC 490 Internship (12 cr.)  
Summer 2018 (4); Summer 2019 (3); Summer 2020 (2); Summer 2021 (2); Summer 2022  
(2); Summer 2024 (9)

RSA 560 Issues in Nonprofit Administration (3 cr.)  
Fall 2018 (13)

HON 300 Public Enemies, Prisons, and ...Tourists? (3 cr.)  
Spring 2022 (14); Spring 2023 (18); Spring 2024 (12)

### ***Indiana University***

SPH-R 142 Living Well (3 cr.)  
Spring 2015 (170)

SPH-R 200 Foundations of Leisure & Public Health (3 cr.)  
Fall 2016 (49); Spring 2017 (23)

SPH-O 210 Introduction to Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Human Ecology (3 cr.)  
Fall 2014 (46)

SPH-O 360 Human Health and Natural Environments (3 cr.)  
Spring 2017 (36)

SPH-R 410 Event Planning and Program Development (3 cr.)  
Fall 2016 (55); Spring 2017 (49)

SPH-R 426 Human Resource Management in Leisure Services (3 cr.)  
Fall 2016 (35)

### **Invited Guest Lectures**

“Dark skies, light pollution, and human health.” SPH-R 142 Living Well: Recreation, Park, and  
Tourism Studies, Indiana University, School of Public Health-Bloomington, October 10,  
2016.

“Public opinion on deer herd reduction policy.” SPH-O 360 Human Health and Natural Environments: Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies, Indiana University, School of Public Health-Bloomington, November 2014.

“Using humor in the classroom.” SPH-R 692 Doctoral Research Seminar: Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies, Indiana University, School of Public Health-Bloomington, March 2014.

## RESEARCH

### **Publications: Peer Reviewed – Published**

McCreary, A., **Knackmuhs, E.**, Poff, R., & Stenger-Ramsey, T. (2022). Understanding the influence of COVID-19 restrictions on recreation behaviors in Western Kentucky. *Kentucky SHAPE Journal*, 59(2), 9-24.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2022). Long-term outcomes from visiting a prison museum. *Visitor Studies*, 25(2), 151-162. doi:10.1080/10645578.2022.2051387.

**Knackmuhs, E.**, Farmer, J. R. & Knapp, D. (2021). Addressing contemporary criminal justice issues as interpretive outcomes at a prison museum. *Visitor Studies*, 24(1), 1-16. doi:10.1080/10645578.2020.1862590.

**Knackmuhs, E.**, Farmer, J. R. & Knapp, D. (2020). The interaction of policy narratives, moral politics, and criminal justice policy beliefs. *Politics & Policy*, 48(2), 288-313. doi:10.1111/polp.12343.

Hildreth, A., Poff, R., **Knackmuhs, E.**, \*Schu, B., & \*Gardner, L. (2019). Fly fishing: One approach to assisting veterans. *Kentucky SHAPE Journal*, 57(1), 30-36.

**Knackmuhs, E.**, Farmer, J. R., & Knapp, D. (2019). The relationship between narratives, wildlife value orientations, attitudes, and policy preferences. *Society & Natural Resources*, 32(3), 303-321. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08941920.2018.1517916>.

Jeon, Y. A., Hale, B., **Knackmuhs, E.**, & Mackert, M. (2018). Weight stigma goes viral on the Internet: Systematic assessment of YouTube comments attacking overweight men and women. *Interactive Journal of Medical Research*, 7(1), e6. doi:10.2196/ijmr.9182.

Knapp, D., Dawson, S., Piatt, J., Devine, M. A., & **Knackmuhs, E.** (2017). The comfort derived from social comparisons at a camp for youth with neuromuscular disease. *American Journal of Recreation Therapy*, 16(4), 7-12. doi:10.5055/ajrt.2017.0142.

**Knackmuhs, E.** & Farmer, J. R. (2017). Factors influencing public trust in a wildlife management agency: A case study of urban deer management in Bloomington, IN. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 35(3), 48-64. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JPra-2017-V35-I3-7408>.

**Knackmuhs, E.,** Farmer, J. R., & Reynolds, H. R. (2017). Examining student outcomes of eco-restoration service-learning experiences in urban woodlands. *Journal of Experiential Education*, 40(1), 24-38.

Farmer, J. R., Brenner, J. C., Drescher, M., Dickinson, S. L. & **Knackmuhs, E. G.** (2016). Perpetual private land conservation: the case for outdoor recreation and functional leisure. *Ecology and Society*, 21(2), 765-780. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-08515-210246>.

Farmer, J., Ma, Z. Drescher, M., **Knackmuhs, E.,** & Dickson, S. (2016). Private landowners, voluntary conservation programs, and implementation of conservation friendly land management practices. *Conservation Letters*.  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/conl.12241/full>.

Farmer, J. R., Chancellor, C., Brenner, J., Whitacre, J. and **Knackmuhs, E.** (2016). To ease or not to ease: Interest in conservation easements among landowners in Brown County, Indiana. *The Professional Geographer*, 68(4), 584-594.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00330124.2015.1129910>.

**Knackmuhs, E. &** Farmer, J. R. (2014). It's not just for plants: Exploring the human dimensions of eco-restoration. *Illuminare: A Student Journal in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Studies*, 12(1), 2-15.

#### **Publications: Non-Peer Reviewed**

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2015). Guest blog: Exploring two-way interpretation at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands Blog, September 3.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2014). A word, or 1,333 in defense of interpretainment. *Legacy Magazine*, Fall (Nov./Dec.) issue.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2012). Social media: Fad or the future of interpretation? *Legacy Magazine*, Spring Issue.

\*Student author

#### **Awarded Research Grants**

**Knackmuhs, E.,** \*Houchens, D., & \*Beard, C. (2023). Fan identification, serious leisure, and well-being among true crime enthusiasts. Western Kentucky University, College of Health and Human Services Quick Turnaround Grant (QTAG) - \$2,912.

**Knackmuhs, E. &** \*Grider, M. (2020). Exploring the effects of nature and virtual reality nature experiences on stress, creativity, and mood. Western Kentucky University, College of Health and Human Services Quick Turnaround Grant (QTAG) - \$2,650.

Stenger-Ramsey, T., McCreary, A., **Knackmuhs, E.** & Poff, R. (2020). Student challenge course, Western Kentucky University, College of Health and Human Services Quick Turnaround Grant (QTAG) - \$3,000.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2016). The influence of policy narratives on policy preferences and interpretive outcomes at a heritage site. Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington Student Research Grant - \$1,000.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2016). Values, narratives, and the onsite experience at a heritage site. Leisure Research Institute Faculty and Student Small Grant Research Program, School of Public Health-Bloomington, Indiana University - \$1,000.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2014). Implications of herd reduction on humans and the forest. Indiana University Office of Sustainability Research Development Grant - \$7,000.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2014). Exploring dialogic interpretation at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. 2014 Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands Interpretation Research Grant - \$1,696.

### **Non-Awarded Research Grants**

\*Grider, M. & **Knackmuhs, E.** (2019). Exploring the benefits of nature and virtual reality nature. Western Kentucky University, Faculty-Undergraduate Student Engagement (FUSE) Grant - \$3,000.

\*Taylor, V., \*Lang, E., & **Knackmuhs, E.** (2019). Empathy museum. Western Kentucky University, Faculty-Undergraduate Student Engagement (FUSE) Grant - \$3,000.

### **Awarded Travel Grants**

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2024). Fieldtrip to Historic Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary and Alcatraz East Crime Museum. Western Kentucky University, Mahurin Honors College, Honors Faculty Engagement Grant (HFEG) - \$1,500.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2023). Fieldtrip to Historic Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary and Alcatraz East Crime Museum. Western Kentucky University, Mahurin Honors College, Honors Faculty Engagement Grant (HFEG) - \$1,500.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2022). Fieldtrip to Historic Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary and Alcatraz East Crime Museum. Western Kentucky University, Mahurin Honors College, Honors Faculty Engagement Grant (HFEG) - \$1,500.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2015). Human dynamics of managing urban deer herds. Natural Areas Conference, Little Rock, AR; November 3-5, 2015. Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington Travel Grant - \$300.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2014). Connecting to urban woodlands through student service-learning. Natural Areas Conference, Dayton, OH; October 15-17, 2014. Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington Travel Grant - \$200.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2014). Truth bombs or punch lines? Exploring the potential of humor in interpretive programs. National Association for Interpretation Region 4 Workshop, Dearborn,

MI; April 14-18, 2014. Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington Travel Grant - \$200.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2013). Why so serious? Interpreting controversial topics can be a laughing matter. National Association for Interpretation National Workshop, Reno, NV; November 6-9, 2013. Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington Travel Grant - \$200.

### **Refereed Conference Presentations**

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2022). Interp. that Rocks, is Interp. that Sticks! National Association for Interpretation National Conference, Cleveland, OH; November 29 – December 3.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2021). ZOOM! Teaching Interpretation in COVID World, National Association for Interpretation Region 3 Virtual Workshop, April 12 - 16.

\*Grider, M. & **Knackmuhs, E.** (2021). The effects of indoor, nature, and virtual nature walks on creativity and mood. Southeast Environment and Recreation Research Virtual Conference. March 22 – 25.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2018). It's our time to address contemporary issues, National Association for Interpretation National Conference, New Orleans, LA; November 27 – December 1.

**Knackmuhs, E.** & Forist, B. (2018). Practical Skills for 21st Century Interpreters: Two-way Communication, Improvisation, and New Methods of Relating to Parks and Visitors, Association of National Park Rangers, Ranger Rendezvous 41, Bowling Green, KY; November 7-11.

**Knackmuhs, E.,** Farmer, J. R., & Knapp, D. (2018). The influence of narratives on support for a controversial wildlife management policy, National Environment and Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD; April 8-10.

Jeon, Y., Hale, B., & **Knackmuhs, E.** (2016). Stigmatizing overweight men and women differently: A content analysis of YouTube comments attacking overweight individuals, National Communication Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA; November 10-13.

**Knackmuhs, E.,** Naaman, K., Knapp, D., & Forist, B. (2016). On the rove: Finding meaning in visitor-centered, two-way informal interpretive conversations, National Association for Interpretation National Conference, Corpus Christi, TX; November 8-12.

**Knackmuhs, E.** & Farmer, J. R. (2016). Trust, conservation, and communication: Challenges of lethal deer management, National Recreation and Park Association Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO; October 4-8.

Hines, R. K., **Knackmuhs, E.,** & Farmer, J. R. (2016). Environmental education and advocacy: Organized multiday canoeing and kayaking events, Coalition for Education in the Outdoors Research Symposium, Bradford Woods, IN; January 22-24.

- Knackmuhs, E., Farmer, J. R., & Mycroft, M. (2016).** Success & challenges in managing white-tailed deer in natural areas in urban & state parks, Indiana Parks and Recreation Association Conference, Bloomington, IN; January 13-15.
- Forist, B., **Knackmuhs, E., & Knapp, D. (2015).** Research results regarding visitor-centered, two-way interpretation and recommended changes in practice: Results from a multiple-case study in six U.S. National Park sites, National Association for Interpretation National Conference, Virginia Beach, VA; November 10-14.
- Farmer, J. R., **Knackmuhs, E., & Drescher, M. (2015).** Perpetuating eco-restoration in private land conservation, Natural Areas Conference, Little Rock, AR; November 3-5.
- Knackmuhs, E. & Farmer, J. R. (2015).** Human dynamics of managing urban deer herds, Natural Areas Conference, Little Rock, AR; November 3-5.
- Knackmuhs, E. & Farmer, J. R. (2015).** Human dynamics of managing urban deer herds: Preliminary results, Indiana University Office of Sustainability Internship Symposium, Bloomington, IN; April 10.
- Knapp, D., Forist, B., & **Knackmuhs, E. (2014).** Mastering dialogic interpretation, National Association for Interpretation National Workshop, Denver, CO; November 18-22.
- Farmer, J. R., **Knackmuhs, E., Whitacre, J., Chancellor, C., & Brenner, J. (2014).** Land residency and interest in conservation easements in Southern Indiana: A behavioral approach, Natural Areas Conference, Dayton, OH; October 15-17.
- Knackmuhs, E., Farmer, J. R., Reynolds, H. (2014).** Connecting to urban woodlands through student service-learning, Natural Areas Conference, Dayton, OH; October 15-17.
- Knackmuhs, E. (2014).** Truth bombs or punch lines? Exploring the potential of humor in interpretive programs, National Association for Interpretation Region 4 Workshop, Dearborn, MI; April 14-18.
- Knackmuhs, E. (2014).** Why so serious? Interpreting controversial topics can be a laughing matter, National Association for Interpretation Webinar; April 22.
- Knackmuhs, E., Farmer, J. R., & Reynolds, H. (2014).** Civic ecology: The intersection of urban ecology, restoration, and public health, Center for Urban Health Conference, Indianapolis, IN; April 1.
- Knackmuhs, E. (2013).** Why so serious? Interpreting controversial topics can be a laughing matter, National Association for Interpretation National Workshop, Reno, NV; November 6-9.



**Knackmuhs, E.** (2013). Why so serious? Interpreting controversial topics can be a laughing matter, National Association for Interpretation Region 9 Workshop, Oakland, CA; April 5-7.

**Knackmuhs, E. & Coble, T.** (2012). But does it work? The impact of social media use on interpretive outcomes at San Francisco Bay Area parks, National Association for Interpretation National Workshop, Hampton, VA; November 13-17.

**Knackmuhs, E.** (2012). Social media: Fad or the future of interpretation? National Association for Interpretation Region 9 Workshop, Yosemite National Park, CA; March 16-18.

## **SERVICE**

### **University**

Western Kentucky University, Recreation, Park, & Nonprofit Administration Program, School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport

- Member, Institutional Review Board, 2019 – present.
- Member, Continuance and Tenure & Promotion Portfolio Content Committee - Ad Hoc
- Member, CHHS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workgroup, 2022 – 2023.
- Faculty Advisor, Recreation, Park, and Nonprofit Administration Club, 2017 – present.
- Advisor, WKU Bass Fishing Team, 2022 – 2023.
- Member, College of Health and Human Services Academic Complaint Committee, 2019 – 2020.
- Member, Search Committee for RA/RSA Assistant Professor, 2017.
- Member, Search Committee for PE Assistant Professor, 2019.
- Member, School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport Workload Committee, 2020.
- Member, Committee for 50th Anniversary of Recreation Administration Alumni Celebration, 2017.
- Recreation Administration Comprehensive Academic Program Evaluation (CAPE), 2019
- Recreation Administration Tourism Minor Review, Spring 2020
- WKU Camp & Recreation Job Fair, Spring 2020 (minor role)
- Recreation Administration Major Revision AY 20-21
- Member, Recreation, Park and Nonprofit Administration Student Scholarships, 2018 – present.
- Recreation, Park, and Nonprofit Administration COAPRT Accreditation Committee, 2022-2023.
- Member, Recreation, Park, and Nonprofit Administration Strategic Plan Committee, 2022-2023.

Indiana University, Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies, School of Public Health-Bloomington

- Member, Search Committee for Department Chair, 2016.
- President, Graduate Recreation Society, 2014-2015.
- Founder / Advisor, National Association for Interpretation Student Chapter at IU, 2013-2015.

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- Department Representative, Graduate and Professional Student Government, Indiana University, 2014-2016.

### **Professional**

#### *Journal of Outdoor Recreation, Education, and Leadership*

- Associate Editor, 2024 – present.

#### *Journal of Interpretation Research*

- Reviewer, 2015.
- Guest Associate Editor, 2018.
- Associate Editor, 2018-2020.

#### *Natural Areas Journal*

- Reviewer, 2014-present.

#### *Illuminare: A Student Journal in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Studies*

- Reviewer, 2013, 2016.
- Topic Editor, 2013, 2016.
- Co-Editor, 2014-2015.

#### *Journal of Leisure Research*

- Reviewer, 2018-present.

#### *Society & Natural Resources*

- Reviewer, 2018-present.

#### *Journal of Park & Recreation Administration*

- Reviewer, 2019-present.

#### *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*

- Reviewer, 2020-present.

#### *Recreation, Parks, and Tourism in Public Health*

- Reviewer, 2020-present.

#### *KY SHAPE Journal*

- Reviewer, 2020-present.

#### *Journal of Experiential Education*

- Reviewer, 2022-present.

#### *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*

- Reviewer, 2024-present.

#### National Recreation and Park Association

- Member, 2016-present

#### The Academy of Leisure Sciences

- Member, 2016-present

#### International Dark-Sky Association

- Member, 2016-present

#### National Association for Interpretation

- Member, 2010-present.
- Director, College and University Academics Section, 2013-2016.
- Member, National Conference Student Scholarship Committee, 2016-2019.

Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies, School of Public Health-Bloomington,  
Indiana University

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- Project Lead, 2015-2017. Long-term outcomes of two-way interpretation project. Taught qualitative interview techniques to a team of three undergraduate researchers. Supervised data collection process. Coordinated division of labor. Taught phenomenological data analysis.

### **Community**

City of Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners

- Presented “Griffy Lake Social Science Research Summary” at May 24, 2016 meeting.

### **AWARDS**

Teaching Honors Award Winner for College of Health and Human Services, Western Kentucky University, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL).

Teaching Honors Nominee 2023-2024, Western Kentucky University, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL).

Teaching Honors Nominee 2019-2020, Western Kentucky University, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL).

Best Student Paper, 2016 National Recreation and Park Association Research Sessions, “Trust, Conservation, and Communication: Challenges of Lethal Deer Management.”

Graduate Student Scholarship, 2011 National Association for Interpretation National Workshop, St. Paul, MN.