

# Kristian Brevik

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**Summary:** I work to bring together artistic practice, ecology+evolutionary science, and the environmental humanities into collaborative research and art exploring the ways the lives of humans and other beings are entangled. In practice, I research relationships between humans and insects using genetics and computational biology, teach science, art and the humanities in academic and community classes, write on the theory and practice of building kinship with other species, and create artwork in the form of large interactive installations, collaborative performance, and short zines on relationships between humans and others in the community of life.

## Education

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- **University of Vermont**, Burlington, Vermont August 2014 -August 2020
  - Ph.D, Department of Plant and Soil Science, Insect Agroecology and Evolution Lab, Advisor: Dr. Yolanda. H. Chen
  - Focus on Ecology and Evolution, Genetics, Epigenetics, Statistics and Data Science
  - 3 years teaching: Entomology and Pest Management, Agroecology of Vegetable Crops, A Bug's Life
- **Hampshire College**, Amherst, Massachusetts September 2006 - May 2010
  - B.A. Natural Science and Interdisciplinary Arts
  - Evolutionary Biology, Ecology, and Sculpture. Thesis: *Change and Use, Bones and Growth*
- **Washington State University** Chimacum, Washington June-November 2010
  - Farm Innovation, Education & Leadership Development (FIELD) Sustainable Agriculture Certificate

## Teaching

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### University of Vermont

- Environmental Statistics (NR140)
- Introduction to Environmental Studies (ENVS001)
- Environmental Literature, Arts, and Media (ENVS165)
- Kincentric Ecology (ENVS195)
- Entomology and Pest Management (TA + lab sections)
- A Bug's Life

### Champlain College

- Making Meaning Through Science
- Digital Methods: Decolonizing Video Games: Multispecies Ethics, Colonialism, and Climate Change in Video Games

### Generator VT

Workshops: Sculptural Lantern-making, Lasercutter Stampmaking  
River Clyde Pageant, PEI, Canada  
Sculptural Lantern-making + Multispecies Artmaking Workshops

## Publications and Research

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*In prep*) The entangled wellbeing of whales and humans in the North Atlantic. **Brevik, K.** Adams, A., Aristizábal, N., Barbieri, L., Bliss, Sam., Dube, B., Roman, J., Hammond Wagner, C., Morgan, C., Nicholson, C., Schwartz, A

*In prep*) Nature and the Rest of Nature. Morse, J. Barbieri, L., **Brevik, K.**, Morgan, C. Ament, J. (2021)

*In prep*) **Brevik, K.**, Language and kin-making with insects.

1) **Brevik, K.**, Bueno, E.M, McKay, S., Schoville, S.D. and Chen, Y.H. Insecticide exposure affects intergenerational patterns of DNA methylation in the Colorado potato beetle, *Leptinotarsa decemlineata*, *Evolutionary Applications* (2020)

2) **Brevik, K.**, Schoville, S.D., Muszewska, A., Péliissié, B., Cohen, Z., Izzo, V., Chen, Y.H. Transposable elements differ between geographic populations of the Colorado potato beetle, *Leptinotarsa decemlineata*

3) Cohen, Z; **Brevik, K.**; Chen, Y.H.; Hawthorne, DJ; Weibel, B; Schoville, S.D. Elevated rates of positive selection drive the evolution of pestiferousness in the Colorado potato beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*, Say)" *Molecular Ecology* (2020)

4) **Brevik, K.**, Adams, J., Dube, B., Barbieri, L. Haage, G.Y., Wellbeing in the more-than-human world. chapter in: *Sustainable Wellbeing Futures: A Research and Action Agenda for Ecological Economics*, eds. Costanza, R., Erikson, J., Farley, F., and Kubiszewski, I. (2019).

5) **Brevik, K.**, Barbieri, L. There is no magic wall. *Minding Nature* (Spring 2019)

6) **Brevik, K.**, Schoville, S. D., Mota-Sanchez, D. & Chen, Y. H. Pesticide durability and the evolution of resistance: A novel application of survival analysis. *Pest Manag. Sci.* (2018). doi:10.1002/ps.4899

7) **Brevik, K.**, Lindström, L., McKay, S. D. & Chen, Y. H. Transgenerational effects of insecticides — implications for rapid pest evolution in agroecosystems. *Curr. Opin. Insect Sci.* 26, 34–40 (2018).

8) Schoville, S. D. *et al.* including **Brevik K.** (2018) A model species for agricultural pest genomics: the genome of the Colorado potato beetle, *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae). *Sci. Rep.* 8, 1931 (2018).

9) Chen Y.H., Gols R., Stratton C. A., **Brevik K.** and Benrey, B. (2015), *Complex tritrophic interactions in response to crop domestication: predictions from the wild.* *Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata*, 157: 40–59.

**Zines** - intended to introduce ideas and practice from ecology, anthropology, philosophy, and indigenous knowledge to anyone, including a path towards further reading:

- 1) Meditation with Insects: An Art of Noticing (July 2020)
- 2) Decolonial + Ecofeminist Pest Control #1: The Colorado potato beetle (July 2020)
- 3) Who are we related to? Evolution and Kinship Clusters (Sept 2020)
- 4) Eating each other (Oct 2020)
- 5) What are your responsibilities: A guide for humans and rivers (December 2020)
- 6) when a deer sees you (January 2020)
- 7) whales don't use money (February 2021)
- 8) bears don't have jobs (March 2021)
- 9) Learn to Make: Art for Fish (April 2021)
- 10) Weeds and Other Imaginary Creatures (May 2021)  
*(monthly zines since July 2020)*

## Residencies and Workshops

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**Aesthetic perspectives on environmental problems: Evaluating the impact of environmental public art in the US**, January 22-24, 2020 - The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center, University of Maryland

**Art+Science Residency at NCEAS (National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis)** – March 1<sup>st</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> 2020

**Vermont Week at Vermont Studio Center** – April 27<sup>th</sup>-May 4<sup>th</sup> 2020

**JumpStart at Generator Makerspace** - January to March 2019

## Grants and Awards

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**Apis Fund for Pollinator Health, 2020** - \$3,000, creation of illuminated sculptures of 8 bumblebee species in decline in Vermont

**Vermont Arts Council Creation Grant, 2019** – \$4,000, “Ghosts of Extinction Yet to Come: Vermont’s Endangered Birds

**Connecticut Sea Grant, 2018** - \$1,000, “Entangled: Illuminated Ghost Whales”

**Burlington City Arts Highlight, 2018** - \$8,000, as member of Illumination Collective

**UVM REACH Grant, 2015** - \$40,000, ‘How do insect pests rapidly evolve on the pesticide treadmill?’

## Conferences and Presentations

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**Wellbeing across more-than-human worlds,**

University of Geneva, Switzerland, May 4th, 2023

**PrattMWP - Guest Lectures**, Science and Society, Spring 2021, 2022, 2023

**University of Michigan, Guest Lecture**, Multimodal Composition: Small Wonders, Fall 2022

**Beyond the Magic Wall (panel), Canadian Society for Ecological Economics**, 2021

**University of Connecticut Avery Point, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019-** “Art, Science & Conservation: Saving the World’s Great Whales and Other Marine Mammals” Invited Talk + Discussion with myself and Dr. Andrea Bogomolni (WHOI)

**International Association of Landscape Ecology, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019** – “Disentangling Conservation Behavior: Fighting Right Whale Entanglement with Art” – co-presented with Alison Adams

**North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium (NARWC) Meeting, Nov 2018:** *presented Entangled: Ghost Whales* and connected with much of the North Atlantic Right Whale research and conservation community

**Feverish World Symposium, Oct 2018:** Served on Art and Public Space Committee, designed and co-led building of tents, *presented ‘There is no Magic Wall’ paper and ‘the dead provide a home for us living’ illuminated TentWork*

**Canadian Society for Ecological Economics, 2017**

**Data for Black Lives, 2017**

**Entomological Society of America 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017:** *Presented on genomics research*

## Professional Experience

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|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Lecturer, University of Vermont</b><br>courses in environmental statistics, studies, and humanities   | 2021-present                |
| <b>Lecturer, Champlain College</b><br>courses in science literacy, ecological video game analysis  | 2022-present                |
| <b>Professional Artist, Whalefall Light and Sculpture</b><br>artmaking, public outreach, community events<br>managing social media, creation of zines  | 2012-present                |
| <b>Insect Agroecology and Evolution Lab Research Assistant</b><br>Studying the ecology of and evolution of insects, developing and executing genomic and bioinformatic analysis of Colorado Potato Beetle and other arthropod genomes. | Sept. 2017 - June 2019      |
| <b>Illumination Collective</b><br>Group of 10 local artists, work together on community art events   | Sept 2018-ongoing           |
| <b>Agroecology and Entomology Teaching Assistant</b><br>Developing and running entomology laboratory sections, including collecting and identifying insects, grading, working with students  | Sept 2014-May 2017          |
| <b>Pollination Research Assistant</b><br>working with Dr. Lynn Adler at the University of Massachusetts<br>collecting nectar and pollen from flowers, involved both fieldwork and lab work   | Summer 2013 and Spring 2014 |

## Exhibitions and Events (starred (\*) titles link to images)

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### Whales and other Lantern Art:

These exhibitions and events explore our relationships with other species (primarily whales and other aquatic species), specifically the environmental impacts of our activities on these species. These pieces all involve illuminated lantern sculptures, many of which are interactive, inviting community participation.

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Honor: People and Salmon</b>   | <b>March 6th - April 15th, 2023</b> |
| Kittredge Gallery, University of Puget Sound                            |                                     |
| <b>Whales Attending a Funeral</b>                                       | <b>April-July 2021</b>              |
| Southampton Arts Center, Southampton, NY                                |                                     |
| As part of eARTh - Artists as Activists                                 |                                     |
| <b>Ghosts of the Salish Sea</b>   | <b>December-April 2021</b>          |
| Tacoma Ocean Fest/Foss Waterway Seaport, Tacoma, WA                     |                                     |
| also "Lantern Paddle for Species"                                       |                                     |
| <b>Orcas and Salmon</b>   | <b>Spring 2020 and 2021</b>         |
| Filson, Seattle, WA and Vancouver, CA                                   |                                     |
| <b>Entangled: Ghost Whales*</b>   | <b>April 2019 - January 2020</b>    |
| New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford, MA                             |                                     |
| Audubon Society of Rhode Island Nature Center and Aquarium, Bristol, RI |                                     |
| <b>Giant Whale Lantern</b>  | <b>December 31, 2019</b>            |
| Main Street Landing, Burlington, VT                                     |                                     |
| <b>Cyber-zoo Lantern Installation</b>                                   | <b>December 31, 2019</b>            |
| Main Street Landing, Burlington, VT                                     |                                     |
| <b>Whales, Ships, and Sky</b>   | <b>September 5-26, 2019</b>         |
| Northwind Arts Center, Port Townsend, WA                                |                                     |
| <b><u>River Clyde Pageant (Ghost Whales on Kayaks)</u></b>              | <b>July-August 2019</b>             |
| New Glasgow, Prince Edward Island, Canada                               |                                     |
| <b>Deep Blue (7 whales and 2 ships)</b>                                 | <b>April-May 2019</b>               |
| Studio Place Arts, Barre, VT  |                                     |
| <b>Crosscurrents: A Connecticut Sea Grant Art Exhibition</b>            | <b>January 24-April 7, 2018</b>     |
| Alexey von Schlippe Gallery, Groton, CT                                 |                                     |
| <b>Lake Trout and Ship Hats*</b>  | <b>December 31, 2018</b>            |
| ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, Burlington, VT                    |                                     |
| <b>Entangled: Ghost Whales at NARWC*</b>                                | <b>November 7-9, 2018</b>           |
| New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford, MA                             |                                     |
| <b>Whales in the Forest*</b>  | <b>September 22, 2018</b>           |
| Shelburne Farms, Shelburne, VT  |                                     |

**Whale Lanterns\***

**September 7-9, 2018**

Burlington, VT, as part of Art Hop 2018

**Ecological and Conservation Art:**

These works contemplate ecology, evolution, deep geological time, and human impacts on the broader environment and the way we share and co-evolve with other species, including domestic mammals.

**sixth time's the charm**

**2019**

As part of 'Art Show #16', RL Photo, Burlington, VT

**the dead provide a home for us living\***

**January 22-March 9, 2018**

Studio Place Arts, Barre, VT

**Feverish World TentWorks**

**October 20-22, 2018**

Burlington, VT, designed and co-led installation development and implementation

**Fossil Bed: the dead provide a home for us living\***

**October 20-22, 2018**

Burlington, VT, As part of Feverish World Symposium

**Tar Sands Bonsai\***

**March 2018**

As part of 'Art Show #5', RL Photo, Burlington, VT

**Bones and Growth, Change and Use**

**April-May 2010**

Hampshire College Gallery, Amherst, Massachusetts, Thesis show

**Insect Art:**

These works share the theme of insects and other related arthropods, thinking about our shared evolutionary roots, the way we share our houses and immediate environment with many of these small relatives, and how the challenges of size and evolutionary distance can make relationship-building with insects difficult. This work includes explorations of interspecies collaborations - 'paperwasp' includes a wasp sculpture made from the paper of wasps' nests.

**Kinship 1, 2, and 3**

**December 7, 2018 – January 19, 2019**

S.P.A.C.E Gallery, Burlington, VT

**Paper Arthropods**

**March 2018**

Studio Place Arts, Barre, VT

**Insectopia**

**June 20th to August 12th, 2014**

Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild Show, St. Johnsbury, VT

**ECLOSION**

**November 2013**

Art.Science.Gallery, Austin, TX