



# NATURAL HISTORIES, NATURAL FUTURES

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CRITICAL-CREATIVE METHODOLOGIES FOR  
CLIMATE ARTS, ADVOCACY, & EDUCATION

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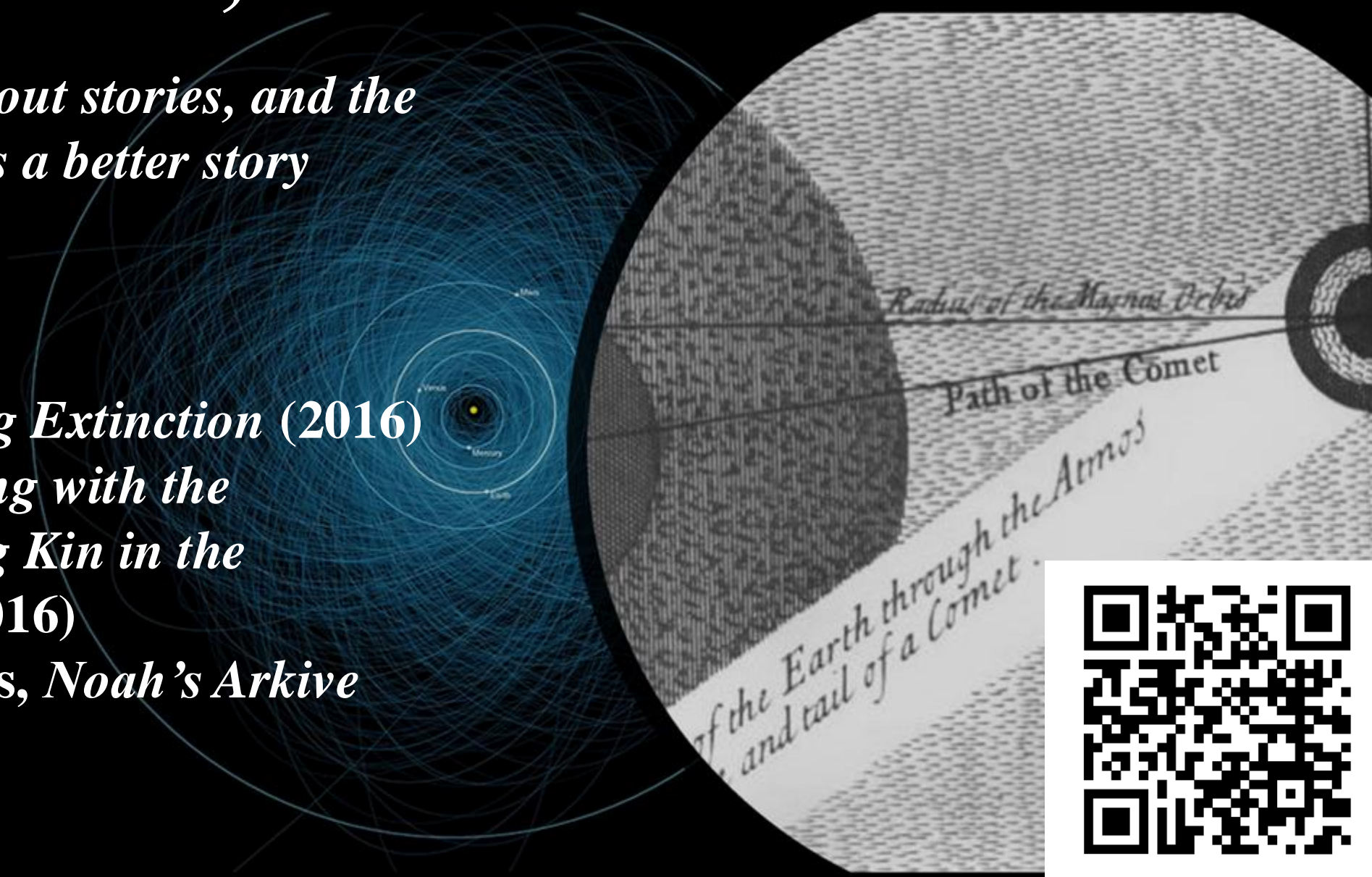
[www.marykatherinefoster.com](http://www.marykatherinefoster.com)

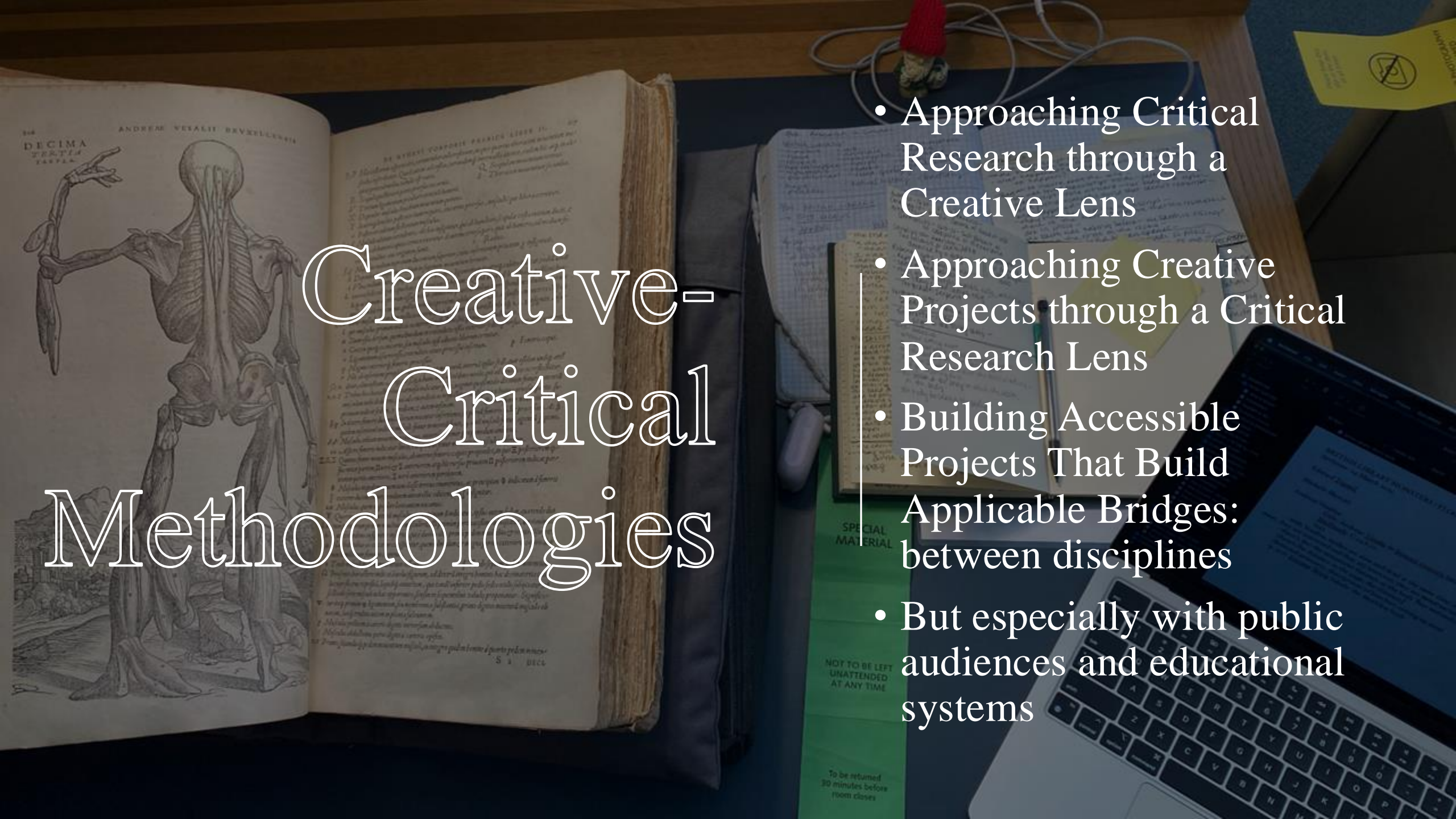
# *Natural Histories, Natural Futures*

*Sustainability is about stories, and the Earth deserves a better story*

## Influences:

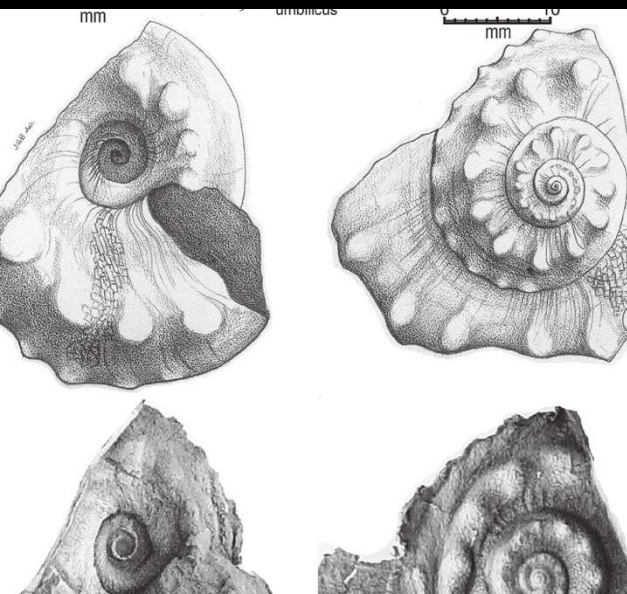
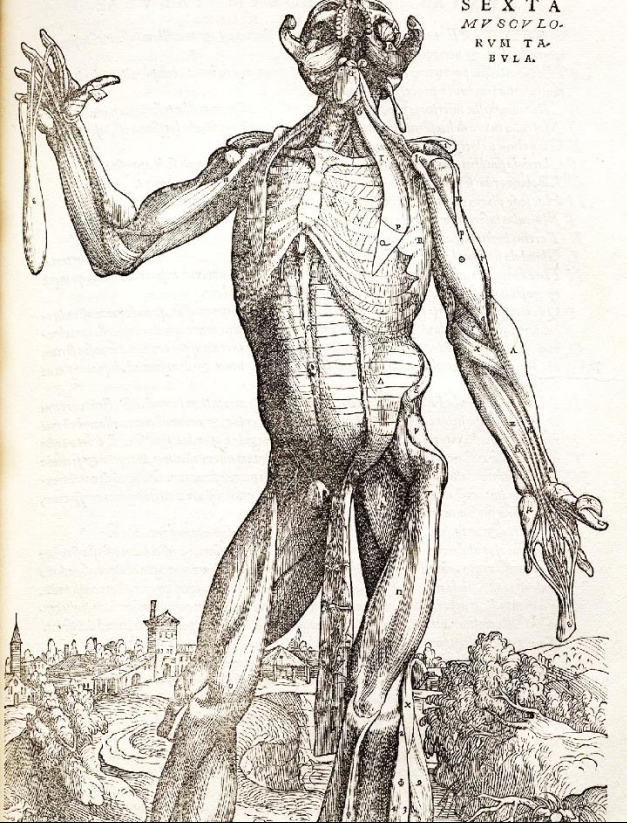
- Heise, *Imagining Extinction* (2016)
- Haraway, *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene* (2016)
- Cohen and Yates, *Noah's Arkive* (2023)





# Creative-Critical Methodologies

- Approaching Critical Research through a Creative Lens
- Approaching Creative Projects through a Critical Research Lens
- Building Accessible Projects That Build Applicable Bridges: between disciplines
- But especially with public audiences and educational systems



# My Critical-Creative Projects

- Poetry:
  - “Pleurotomaria” (*Massachusetts Review*, Fall 2023)
  - “Black Sea Deluge Hypothesis” (*Columbia Review*, 2024)
- Fiction:
  - “Fifth Element” (*Crow & Cross Keys*, 2023)
  - *Velvet* (novel in-progress)
- Research:
  - *Flood to Fire: EM Europe and Mass Extinction*
  - “Natural Histories, Natural Futures” DH Project
- Education:
  - Glow Horse Learning
- For Example:
  - Sharks!







*ARKBIRD, or The Raven's Wife*  
critical-creative novel using Flood research & Flood epic in Fiction

A glowing neon outline of a horse in profile, facing right. The outline is composed of bright pink and purple lines that have a soft, ethereal glow. The background is a dark, textured gradient of deep blue and purple, with some lighter, hazy areas that suggest a night sky or a misty atmosphere. The overall effect is magical and ethereal.

# **GLOW HORSE LEARNING**

**[www.theglowhorse.com](http://www.theglowhorse.com)**



# THE GLOWHORSE MISSION

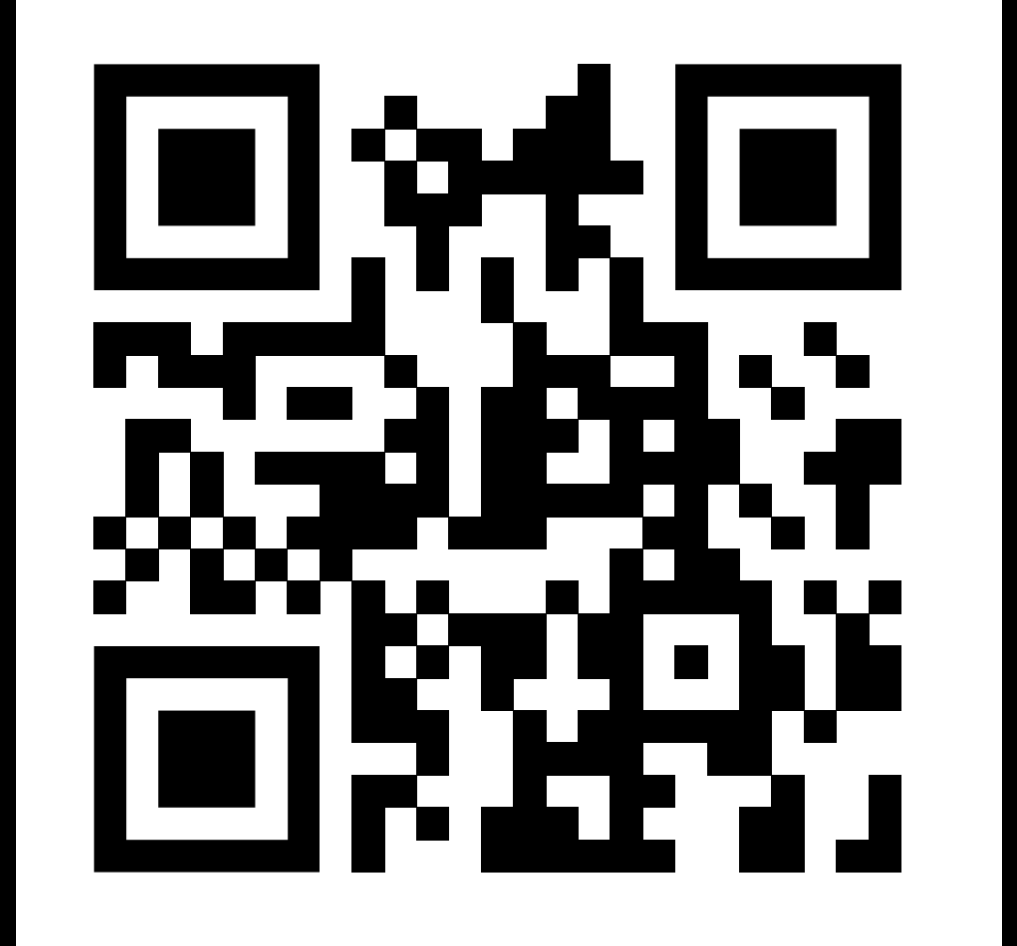


"The Lady Gaga of Learning Companies" -No One, yet

Glow Horse is a learning company dedicated to inventing creative, data-driven academic writing, critical thinking, and literature curricula for middle and high school teachers. Our mission is to support educators by providing them with materials, training, resources, professional development, and coaching that will help them optimize their pedagogy with refreshed approaches to teaching writing, research papers, and critical discussion. Glow Horse works with and for teachers to structure more effective lesson plans, generate sustainable classroom momentum, heal from education burnout, and lay buildable foundations for transferable skillsets to bridge gaps between high school, college, and career readiness levels. To Glow Horse, the future is classroom-shaped and student-sized, and our commitment is to help teachers forge it: together, we will make learning brighter.

# GHL Curricula: Natural Histories, Natural Futures

- Today:
  - Offering: Free GHL Interdisciplinary Curricula Material
- What It Is:
  - Fillable Worksheet/PDF
- What It Does:
  - Facilitates Mapping Natural Histories and Natural Futures
- How It Works:
  - Organic Drafting, Bubbling, and Webbing Worksheet
- What To Do With It:
  - As Educators, As Researchers, As Creatives
- Projected Outcomes: A focus on human narrations of nature across time, witnessing their impact, and practicing sustainable storytelling



# Natural Histories, Natural Futures: Sustainable Narratives Worksheet

**PERSONAL PRESENT ECO-NARRATIVE(S): What do you know?**  
Topic/Theme:

Personal Experiences with Topic:	Cultural Influences on Your Knowledge About Topic:	Your Current Narrative:
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Setting the Stage for the Future: What story to-come can be readied now?

Key Dialogue/ Action to Get to This Story:	<b>FUTURE ECO-NARRATIVES:</b> What <u>could</u> the stories be? How do we write them?
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**PAST ECO-NARRATIVES: What was the story in the past?**

Research/ History/Context/ Conversations/ Key Figures:	Conflict/Rise/ Fallout/Impact:	Exigence/ Kairos:
		Bridge: Where Does This Carryover to Present:

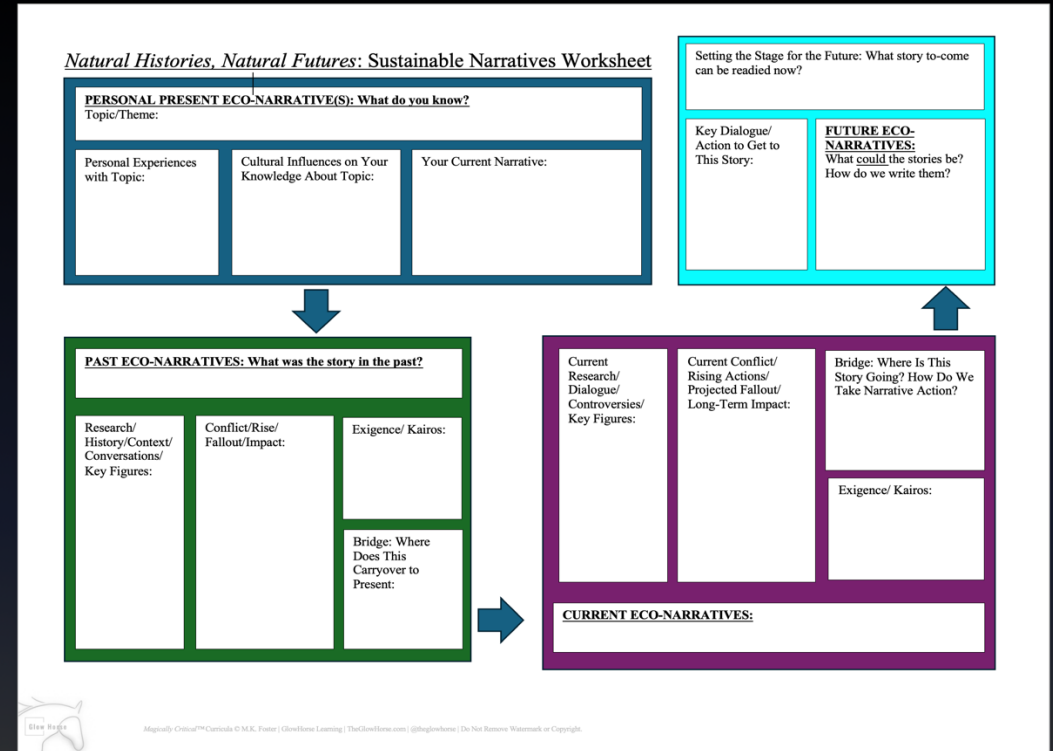


Current Research/ Dialogue/ Controversies/ Key Figures:	Current Conflict/ Rising Actions/ Projected Fallout/ Long-Term Impact:	Bridge: Where Is This Story Going? How Do We Take Narrative Action?
		Exigence/ Kairos:
<b>CURRENT ECO-NARRATIVES:</b>		



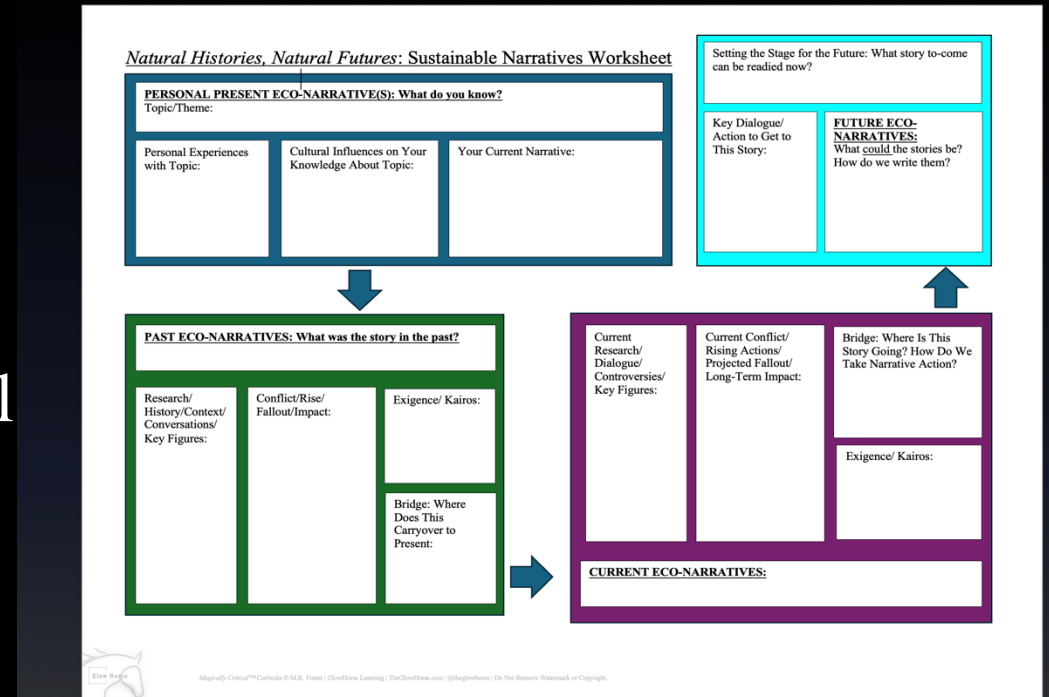
# NHNF Worksheet: Educators (Humanities, Arts, Sciences)

- **Options:** Use as a hard-copy, digital worksheet, or draft boxes in notebook.
- **AI Pushback:** Never underestimate the value of a worksheet in an AI world.
- **Everyone:** All education levels. All disciplines.
- **READY TO GO!** Among other immediate uses:
  - First-Day or Daily Warm-Up
  - Assignment Arc Base Layer
  - Drafting Research
  - Outlining Assignments
- **Multi-Tier Use:** Students can flip all the content directly into a paper outline. Boom. No more blank page. They just have to keep writing.
- **Accessible:** Handout is available as a PDF and Word Doc. for accessibility
- **Buildable:** this handout can be used as a stand-alone or as one part of many.
- **Integrative:** The material directly feeds into the natural progression of most pedagogy styles by offering concrete organization tactics.



# NHNF Worksheet: Researchers (Humanities, STEM)

- **Interdisciplinary Tool:** Organizational device to frame research questions, arguments, and approaches.
- **Annotate:** Daily research journaling and annotations.
- **Archives:** Works easily alongside archival notetaking.
- **Writing:** drop your research subject into the first box; work through the worksheet; → then flip over the entire handout and use it as a conference paper or the scaffolding of a publication. Cheers.



# NHNF Worksheet: Artist/Creatives Sciences

- Develop or Refocus a current eco-project
- Use as a daily journal as you grow and approach a project.
- Social Media Content content
- Use this material to structure artist grant and fellowship applications, publication and gallery pitches, and interdisciplinary partnership statements.
- As in, fill it out, and immediately flip it over and have the outline for a personal statement for a fellowship application. I do.

*Natural Histories, Natural Futures: Sustainable Narratives Worksheet*

<b>PERSONAL PRESENT ECO-NARRATIVE(S): What do you know?</b>		
Topic/Theme:		
Personal Experiences with Topic:	Cultural Influences on Your Knowledge About Topic:	Your Current Narrative:

<b>Setting the Stage for the Future: What story to-come can be readied now?</b>	
Key Dialogue/ Action to Get to This Story:	<b>FUTURE ECO-NARRATIVES:</b> What <u>could</u> the stories be? How do we write them?

<b>PAST ECO-NARRATIVES: What was the story in the past?</b>		
Research/ History/Context/ Conversations/ Key Figures:	Conflict/Rise/ Fallout/Impact:	Exigence/ Kairos:
		Bridge: Where Does This Carryover to Present:

<b>CURRENT ECO-NARRATIVES:</b>		
Current Research/ Dialogue/ Controversies/ Key Figures:	Current Conflict/ Rising Actions/ Projected Fallout/ Long-Term Impact:	Bridge: Where Is This Story Going? How Do We Take Narrative Action?
		Exigence/ Kairos:

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