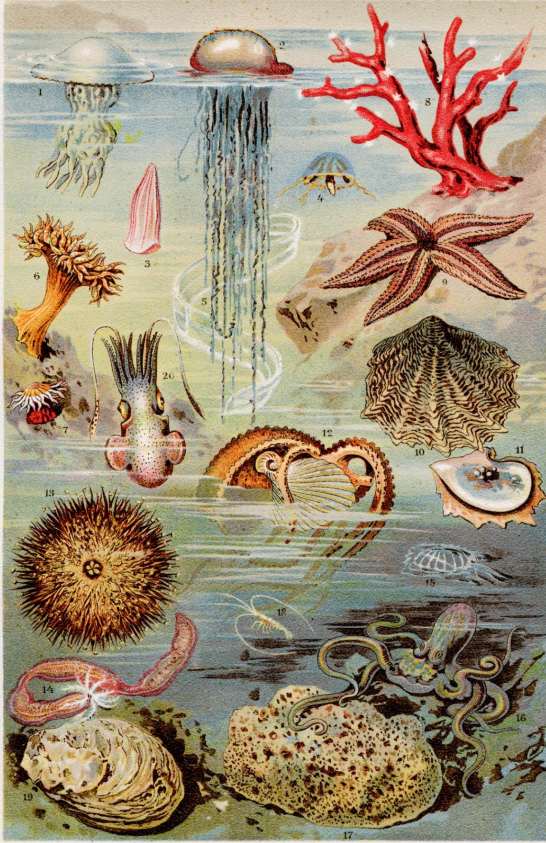# Narrative and the Lived Experience in Ocean and Marine Science

Increasing Diversity in the US Ocean Studies Community: Meeting 2

Kendall Moore,
Department of Journalism and Film Media
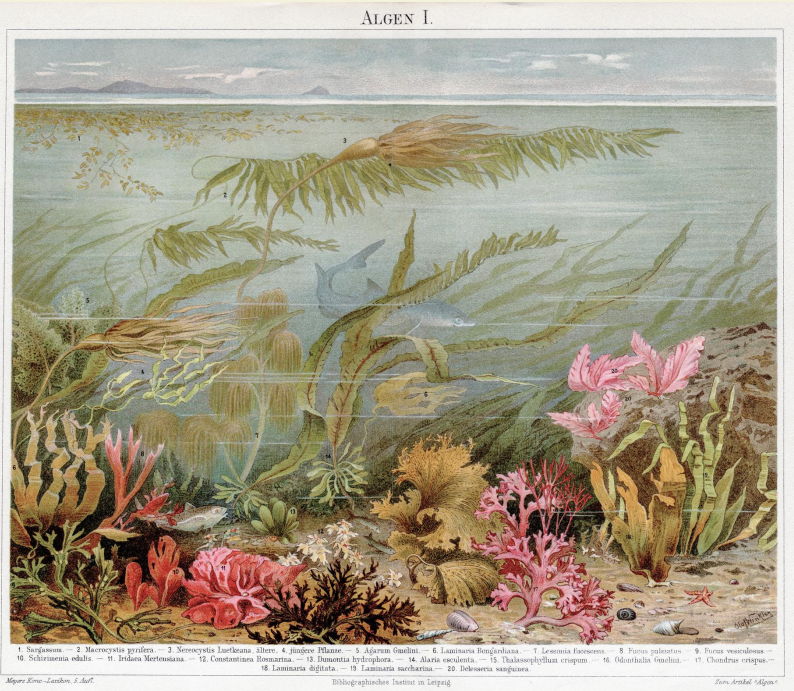University of Rhode
May 9, 2024

Meerestiere. Taf. II.

XIX.

Istock engraving, 1899

Objectives
- Clarify the use of language around narrative
- Explore the purpose and motivation behind narrative in the context of diversity in ocean and marine science
- Methods and obstacles to collecting narratives

Defining Narrative

ALGEN I.

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- Narrative as *a* story
- Narrative as *your* story– "your internal narrative" and the narrative that you create for other people
- Narrative as a *type* of story–fiction
- Narratives flow into and out of personal identity constructs

Use of Narrative in STEM

Why is this important?
- Tied to sense of belonging–
  - Individual level-self awareness
  - Infrastructure level-creating and clearing spaces
  - Substructure-understanding current traumas within a historical context
- Explicit ways of working towards sense of belonging, (i.e. recruitment, and retention)–is more likely to happen inside institutions that are doing a good job at seeing, listening, hearing, and supporting a multiplicity of narratives and identities

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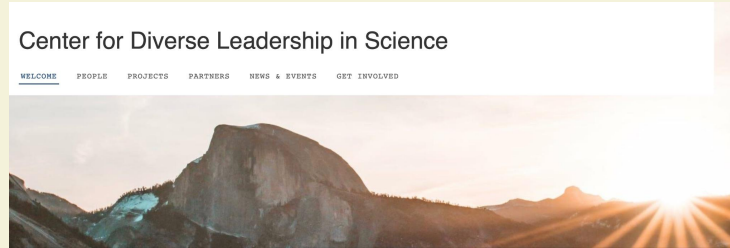
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Examples of Projects using personal narrative in the context of STEM identity

-Documentary
-Podcasting
-Photography
-Mixed Media Art
-Installations
-Short TV -Interviews
-LivingDocumentary
-Live Performance

Center for Diverse Leadership in Science

WELCOME   PEOPLE   PROJECTS   PARTNERS   NEWS & EVENTS   GET INVOLVED

Sciencia PR

NEW SHORT DOCUMENTARY HIGHLIGHTS THE JOURNEY OF A PUERTO RICAN SCIENTIST

Submitted by *Mónica Ivelisse Feliú-Mójer* on 6 May 2024 - 11:58am

PDF version

Berkeley, CA - May 6, 2024 - The short film documentary "Coming Home" is set to premiere virtually on May 9, 2024, at 3 pm ET/12 pm PT. Directed and produced by Dr. Mónica Feliú Mójer for the nonprofit Science Communication Lab (SCL), the film explores her journey as a Puerto Rican scientist, delving into the intersections of culture, community, and science.

The documentary follows Dr. Feliú Mójer as she returns to her homeland to serve as the emcee of the national conference of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). Through personal narrative, the film highlights her upbringing in a rural working-class community in Puerto Rico, showcasing how it influenced her values and commitment to equity, justice, and solidarity, which continue to drive her science communication and engagement work today.

COMING HOME
THE JOURNEY OF A PUERTO RICAN SCIENTIST

El documental "Coming Home" sigue la historia de la Dra. Mónica Feliú Mójer.

SCI COMM IDENTITIES PROJECT

2024
FELLOWS

BLACK IN MARINE SCIENCE

HOME   ABOUT   EVENTS   DONATE

TERC

About TERC   Projects & Research   Publications   Products & Materials

Native STEM Portraits (NSP)

NSP is a longitudinal study on the experiences of Native STEM students, faculty, and professionals and the barriers and supports they encounter in STEM.
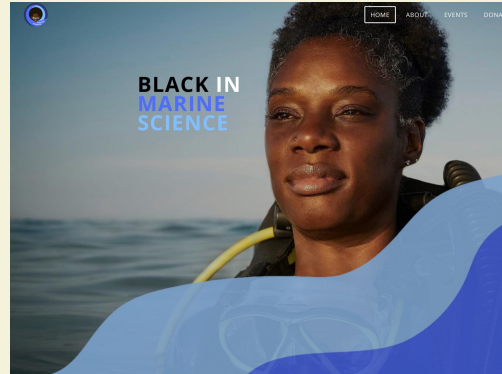
Lead Staff:
Mia Ong
Nuria Jaumot-Pascual

Project Staff:
Christina B. Silva
Lisette Torres-Gerald

Coming Home: The Journey of a Puerto Rican Scientist , Documentary by Mónica Feliú-Mójer, Ph.D. - Ciencia Puerto Rico

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNdX_C2jaac

TERC, Inc. Native STEM Photography Portraits

Living Documentary

What we are Learning

-Lack of identity in STEM isn't the issue, it's the lack of *our* identities in STEM

-Motivation and purpose is tied to identity

-Motivation and purpose are tied to relationships

-Relational practices are becoming increasingly relevant in STEM practices

-One of the best expressions of identity and relationships is through narratives using various modalities (seeing is believing)

Purpose and Motivation

Purpose and Motivation

- To do narrative work…
- You must be aware of your motivations
- Must understand the implications of those on the people and communities you engage with
- My lab (The Studio Lab) is engaged in social emotional learning and ethical engagement methods

As a Filmmaker:

Purpose: To raise awareness about scientific and environmental issues in communities of color, specifically in Black, African American, and Black-Indigenous communities

Motivation: Ancestral responsibility

Photo credit: Momentum Magazine

My Ancestors
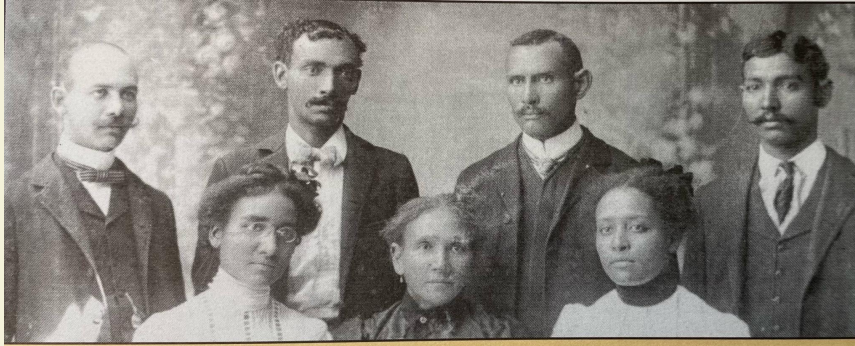
Weaver-Kelley Family

Top Right: Samuel Raymond (great grandfather);
Bottom Right Della Jarrett (great grandmother)
Left: Nancy Weaver (great, great, great,
grandmother)
Right: Mary Grace Steele (great-grandmother)

Exercise Part 1: 5-10 years old

Purpose
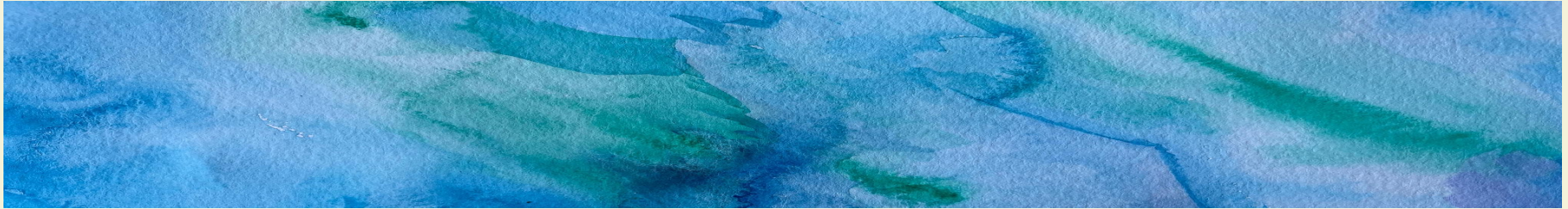
Motivation

Define Social Emotional Learning, Teaching, and Working (SEL)

- Skills and abilities that promote positive attitudes
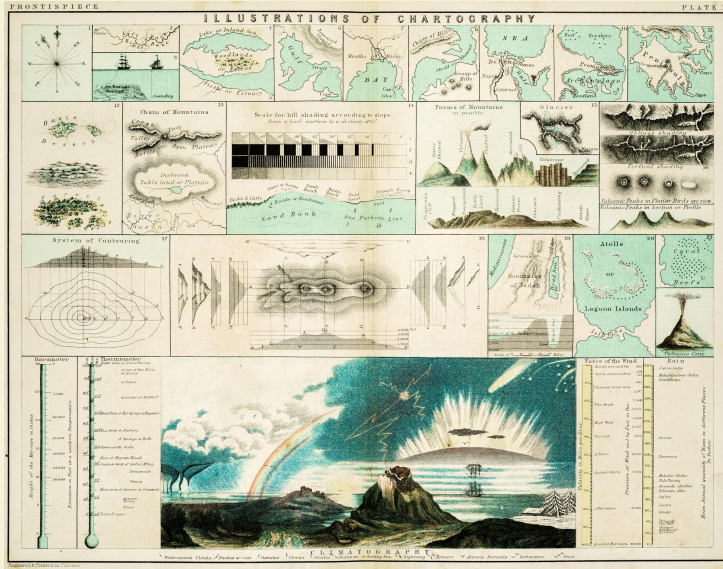- Ability to build healthy relationships
- Make responsible decisions
- To develop self-awareness
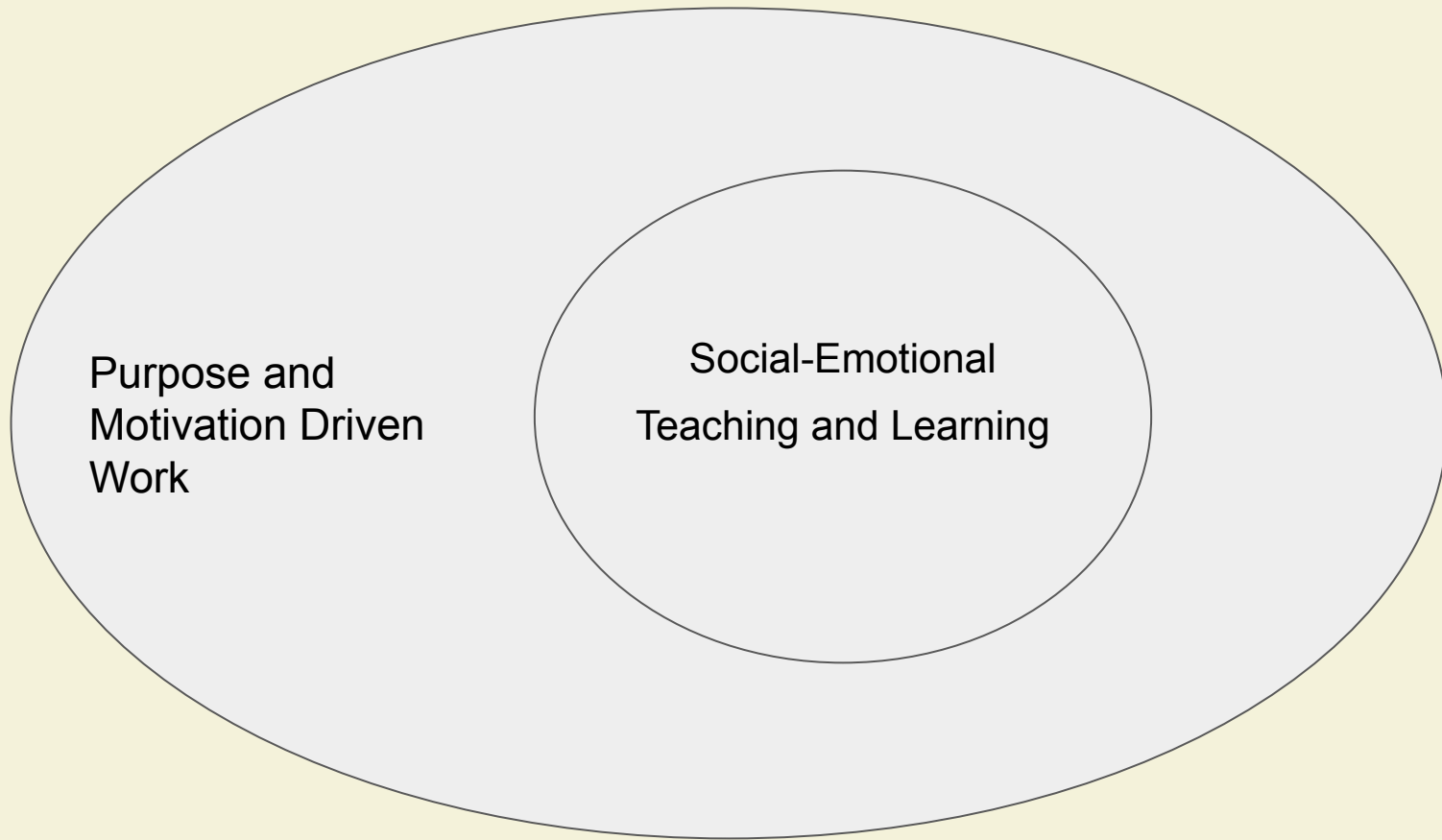
Purpose and Motivation Driven Work

Social-Emotional Teaching and Learning

# Examples of Social Emotional Learning Manifests in the Work

Istock engraving 1861

- Individual relationships are considered in how you do research
- Group dynamics influence decision making in scientific research
- You allow yourself to be held accountable
- You operate within an ethical-moral framework
- You, as the individual, is decentered
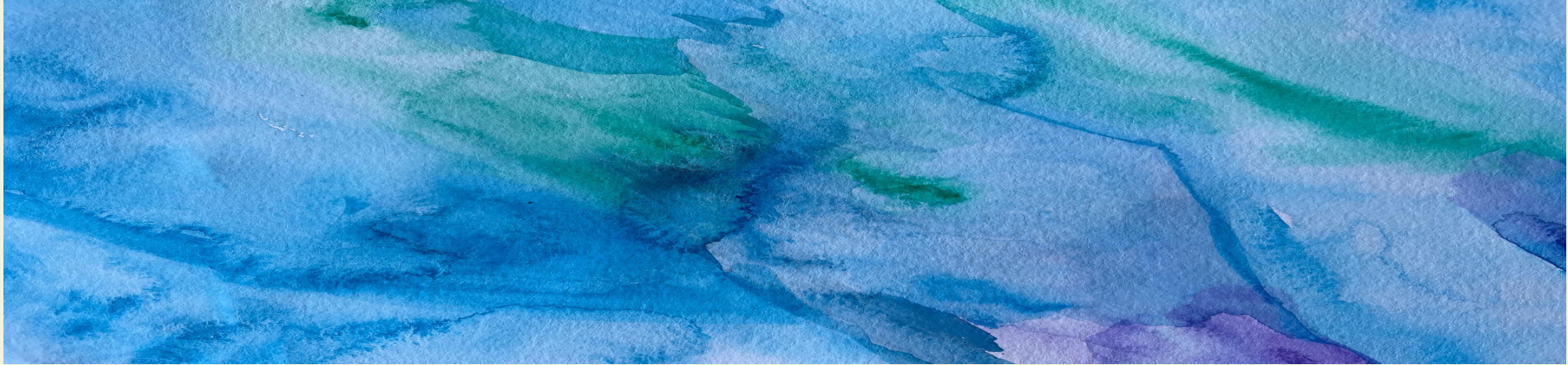- Feelings, Identity, and culture matter

Age 11-20 years old

Purpose
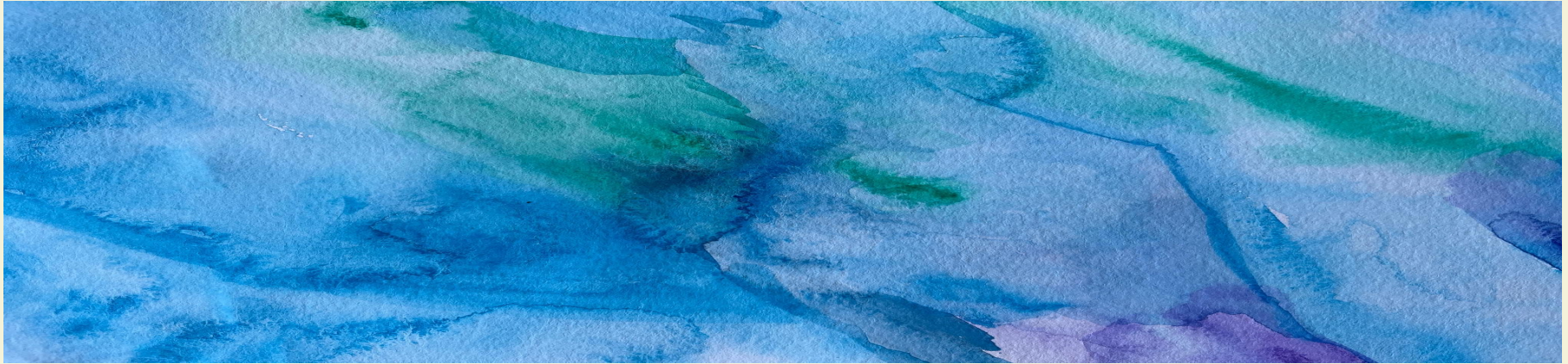
Motivation

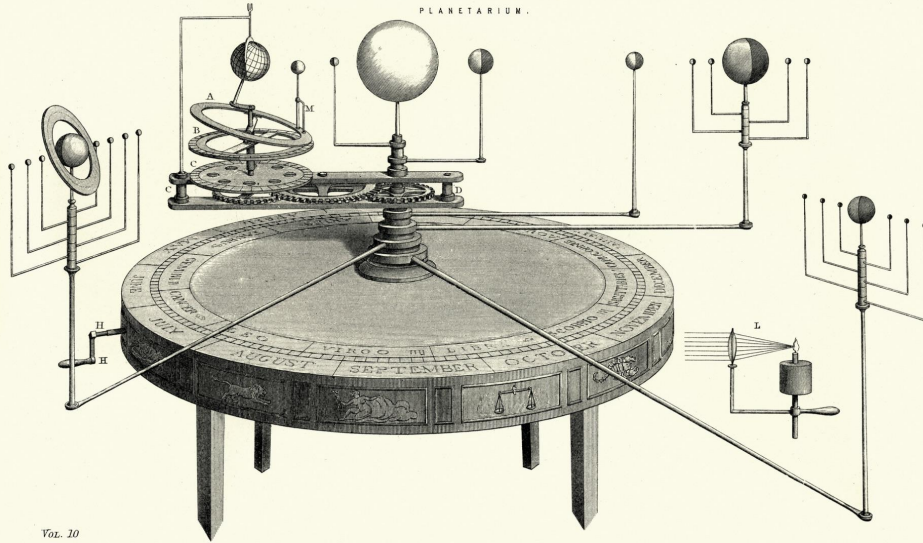Age 21- years old

Purpose

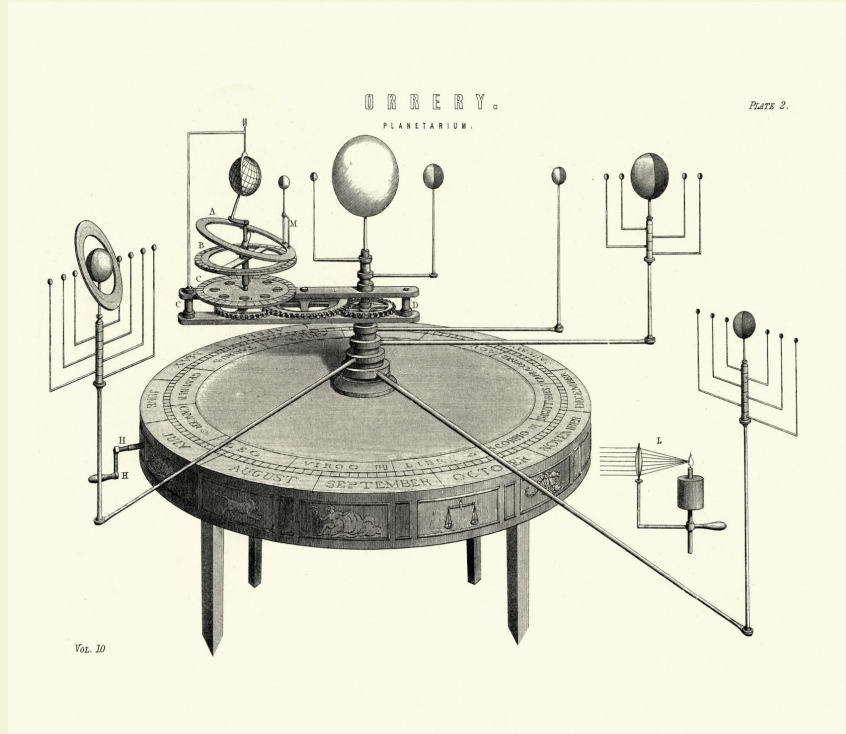
Motivation

Methods and obstacles to collecting narratives

Obstacles: trust, fear, anxiety, suspicion, are you "authentic"?

Methods

Grounding philosophies

 -Ethics, social-emotional learning and listening, praxis

Grounding Practices

 -Centering and Decentering

 -Co-creation at all levels

 -Accountability (honest conversations)

 -Joy and fun

Kendall Moore, PhD
Professor and Filmmaker
University of Rhode Island

and again, to be honest,
you have to put that on the table

Harm in the Water (In Production)

Oceans Tell Stories Through People

Tying it all together

Thank You!