

CRITICAL ECOLOGY[©] LAB TENETS

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We strive for a culture of continual healing through iterating the following tenets:



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COMMITTING TO GROWTH THAT ACCOMPANIES DISCOMFORT

Allowing ourselves to engage with being wrong, called out/in, and making mistakes is a gift to ourselves that makes us better people and researchers.

There is a difference between uncomfortable and unsafe situations. It is important to critically analyze where a situation falls.

HONORING INDIGENOUS HISTORIES AND FUTURES

We acknowledge the Indigenous populations who were violently removed from their ancestral lands. In this case, they are the [NAMES] Tribes.

Our work must engage meaningfully with the pasts and futures local Indigenous tribal communities and the movement toward Indigenous land sovereignty.

RATE OF HEALING > RATE OF DISTURBANCE TO COLLECTIVE WELLBEING

In ecological systems, disturbance can generate state changes and resilience, depending on how the system recovers. By building a foundation of listening, respect, and trust in the research container, we recover and grow resilient to disturbance (e.g. conflict, disharmony, harmful competition, social bias).

CULTIVATING INTERDEPENDENCE BUILT FROM GENUINE COMPASSION

Care within each working space can appear in different forms and results from a culture of listening and noticing.

Offerings of care, through communication, actions, or other supports, set a tone of interdependence that creates resilience.

VALIDATING AND LISTENING TO ONE ANOTHER

Validation means acknowledgement and respect towards the lived experiences of others, even if they are not shared experiences.

We are validated through better communication via deep listening. Validation is part of upending inequality and is part of building equity in science groups.

MULTIPLE WAYS OF KNOWING EXIST

Our research is the sum of the past, present, and future experiences of the communities which individual practitioners come from.

We do not exist in isolation; we bring our personal histories and our communities' histories to the work we do.

WELCOMING EMERGENCE OF BOUNDARY-BREAKING QUESTIONS

Unique and creative questions can enter our research circles when people feel safe to bring their full selves (complete identity, concerns, experiences, fears, observations) into the research container.

We are willing to engage with challenging questions and tensions.