

INSTITUTE ON THE
ENVIRONMENT

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MINI GRANT PROJECT SUMMARY

Please complete the project summary and return the completed form to April Snyder, Associate Administrator for the Institute on the Environment at aprilssnyder@umn.edu. Paper copies will not be accepted. Please also attach any photos, publications, brochures, event agendas or other materials that were a result of the mini grant summary.

Date of Report Submission:	April 10, 2015
Project PI & Dept/School	Dan Philippon, English/CLA
Project Title:	Illustrating Interdisciplinarity: Audubon in the 21st Century
Grant Amount \$:	\$2,500

Project Context & Purpose

Please include the original project purpose statement and revise for any changes that occurred in the project after the start date with a short explanation of the changes.

Prof. Philippon and colleagues will develop an integrated series of events, educational programs, and conversations for the University community and the public to accompany the Bell Museum of Natural History's new exhibit, "Audubon and the Art of Birds."

Work Completed

Please provide a summary of the work that was completed for the mini grant project.

The centerpiece of the project was a campus visit by Christoph Irmischer, the Provost Professor of English at Indiana University. Prof. Irmischer is the author of *The Poetics of Natural History*, the editor of *John James Audubon: Writings and Drawings* for the Library of America, and the co-editor of *A Keener Perception: Ecocritical Studies in American Art History*. He has spoken widely on Audubon and has been commissioned to co-write a second book on Audubon.

Prof. Irmischer participated in three events during his visit. He delivered a public lecture on Audubon, art, and environmental representation ("Audubon's Modernity") in Nolte 140 at 4 pm on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014. Approximately 100 people attended the talk, including an undergraduate class on American Literatures and Cultures and many members of the general public. This was followed by a reception at 5:30 pm and a gallery talk with Prof. Philippon on "Audubon as Author" at 6 pm. Both events were held at the Bell Museum and were well-attended, as they constituted the opening event for the second half of the Audubon exhibition and were part of the Bell Museum's "Big Thursday" series of events. Finally, on Friday, Feb. 7, Prof. Irmischer participated in a faculty workshop on interdisciplinarity and the environmental humanities from 12-1:30 pm in Lind Hall 207A. The workshop was attended by approximately 15 faculty members.

Partnerships & Collaborations

Please provide a summary of the project personnel, partnerships and collaborations that worked directly on the project or were started as a direct result of the mini grant project.

Prof. Philippon collaborated with several people at the Bell Museum of Natural History to arrange Prof. Irmscher's visit, including Don Luce (Curator of Exhibits), Barbara Coffin (Associate Director of Adult Education Programs and Media), and Martin Moen (Associate Director for Communications and Operations).

The faculty workshop included participation from a wide range of University departments, including English; Art; Landscape Architecture; German, Scandinavian, and Dutch; and Geography, Environment, and Society, among others.

Project Outcomes & Impacts

Please provide a summary of the outcomes and /or impacts of the mini grant project including future plans for the project.

Sub-groups of participants in the faculty workshop were subsequently involved in several successful proposals and events on campus, including a planning grant on "The Global Midwest: Vulnerability and Resourcefulness" from the Andrew Mellon Foundation "Humanities without Walls" Initiative; a summer workshop on "Nature, Ways of Knowing and Moral Commitment: A Conversation on Religion, Science and the Anthropocene"; and a research collaborative on "Transatlantic Approaches to the Environmental Humanities" funded by the Center for German and European Studies.