Wicked Problems, Wolfpack Solutions • Global Change

We Keep Us Safe: Building a Web of Social Action

Chris L. Hawn¹

¹NC State University

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ABSTRACT

Chris L. Hawn, Ph.D. uses lessons learned from grassroots organizing to apply to the field of public science to create an accessible and justice-oriented science. Hawn discusses their start at NC State University getting their Ph.D. in conservation ecology and the reasons why they shifted towards environmental justice and toxicology.

Chris Hawn is an assistant professor of geography and environmental systems at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Hawn's research platform uses public science to blend conservation ecology with social justice to benefit groups that are subjected to oppression. Hawn has developed a justice-oriented public science project called Spidey Sensor, an air quality monitoring project using spider webs to detect air pollution. They use spiders as bioindicators to test the quality of the environment and use Black feminist theory to understand the broader social implications of environmental inequality.

Visit the web version of this article to view interactive content.

We Keep Us Safe: Building a Web of Social Action (Chris L. Hawn)
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TRANSCRIPT**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

1. Spideysensor.org. Participate in Spidey Sensor and monitor the air quality in your neighborhood.