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**Researcher: Sara Penrhyn Jones**

**Project Title: Broadening Understanding of Environmental Communication through Transdisciplinary Narratives on Climate Change - A Creative & Critical Exploration**

**UOA: 14 - Geography and Environmental Studies**

300-Word Statement

This body of research positions environmental communication as a crisis discipline, urgently demanding new ways of operating amidst unprecedented environmental challenges. The film embodies, and the article argues for, the value of practice as research. Both arise from research projects which integrate creative practice and participatory action research, showcasing these methodologies as a driving force in transdisciplinary research, addressing global challenges.

The research trajectory is directly connected to three AHRC-funded research projects and one impact project (three led by Sara Penrhyn Jones), 2013-18. Each project sought to support communities (UK and Kiribati) in their changing environment. The documentary film TIMELINE creates emotional connections between Wales and Kiribati, and was recognised as placing practice at the heart of transdisciplinary enquiry (AHRC film-as-research shortlist 2016; Best Practice Research BAFTSS 2017).

The research projects' multi-partner interventions on environmental themes (e.g., water, climate change, displacement, heritage, sustainable development) provide robust case studies that expand the practical and intellectual scope of environmental communication. The main insights disseminated in the article (including analysis of the published film) are: (1) the need to think beyond 'environmental messaging', recognising the intrinsic value of creativity, dialogue, civic participation and enhanced networks; (2) that production processes of specific media forms are integral to questions of power and voice in practice; and (3) research design should reflect a modesty of relations in community-based research, funding collaboration with local partners and artists. Environmental communication is (re)framed as developing a community’s own ecological storytelling abilities, and enhancing local capacity to identify and address environmental problems.

This research led to Sara Penrhyn Jones' selection as Outreach Fellow, Rachel Carson Centre (2018-19) and UKRI Role Model for Environmental Research (2019). The body of research features in several portfolios on humanities research on the environment, heritage (AHRC), and a case study on mobilising indigenous knowledge (ESRC/AHRC).