

Sara Harris

Professor of Teaching, Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences at University of British Columbia

Vancouver, BC, CA

Sara Harris's current research explores how people learn climate science.

Biography

Sara Harris is a Professor of Teaching in the department of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and a 3M National Teaching Fellow. She has a PhD in oceanography from Oregon State University and a research background in paleoceanography and paleoclimate. During seven years as a chief scientist at Sea Education Association in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, she studied modern oceans and sailed thousands of miles with undergraduate students. Since 2007, she has been a Departmental Director for the Carl Wieman Science Education Initiative at UBC, a major effort to improve undergraduate learning in science by implementing evidence-based, student-focused pedagogy. Sara's current research explores how people learn climate science. She teaches a MOOC on edx.org called "Climate Change: The Science" and she is a co-author of Understanding Climate Change: Science, Policy, and Practice.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Research, Maritime

Areas of Expertise

Science Education, Climate Change, Energy Systems and Public Policy, University Teaching, Public Speaking, Environmental Awareness, Science Policy, Oceanography, Paleoceanography

Event Appearances

Overcoming the Obstacles to Teaching Reform

Earth Educators' Rendezvous

Dirty Slates: Student Ideas as Catalysts for Learning

Vancouver Island University Teaching and Learning Conference

The Change in Climate Change

A Taste of Pi Series, Simon Fraser University

(Re)Designing Your Course For Improved Student Learning

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California

Education

Oregon State University
Ph.D. Oceanography

Wesleyan University
B.A. Earth Science

Accomplishments

3M National Teaching Fellowship

2015 Awarded by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and 3M Canada to recognize exceptional contributions to teaching and learning in Canadian post-secondary education.

Killam Teaching Prize

2011 Awarded by the University of British Columbia.

Undergraduate Instructor of the Year Award

2007 Awarded by Earth and Ocean Sciences, University of British Columbia.

Jim Millinger Award for Excellence in Teaching

2005 Awarded by the Sea Education Association.

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