



Ongoing Research

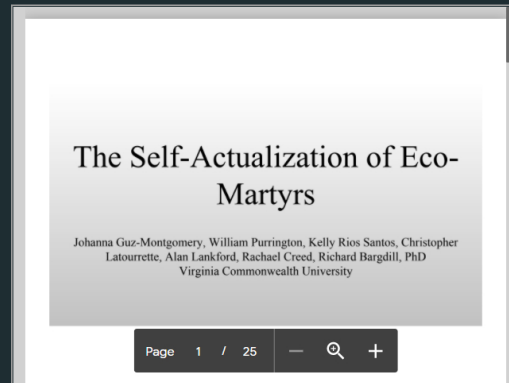
For the last five years, my research team has been writing summaries based on a list of environmentalists, indigenous peoples, farmers and other community leaders who have been murdered defending the earth that we all share. The Global Witness Organization compiles and releases a yearly list of names that is international in scope. There have been about 2000 confirmed deaths of "eco-martyrs" since 2002. These activists have been working to stop projects that would lead to environmental destruction, displacement of indigenous people, increased climate change, extinction of animals and resources or elimination of prior ways of life.

These persons have stood up to governments, militaries, corporations and local police despite the efforts of those entities to intimidate them. Most of the eco-martyrs had been previously threatened with violence and/or their own murder. Our research attempts to humanize what otherwise would be a long list of murdered individuals. We write short summaries of the basic details of the struggles that these persons were engaged in to protect the Earth for all of us to live on. The research sometimes will take the stories of these martyrs and compare them with some psychological attributes that the research team believe they have exhibited during their life. For example, our research suggests that Eco-martyrs exemplify Maslow's concept of self-actualization and Kohlberg's concept of moral development. More importantly, we draw attention to the fact that the people working to stop climate change and protect the environment are working at a heightened state of physical risk and deserve better protections by authorities. Hopefully, our work will result in a book cataloging our eco-martyrs which we hope will potentially save lives.

The Self-Actualization of Eco-Martyrs



Andrew Bland

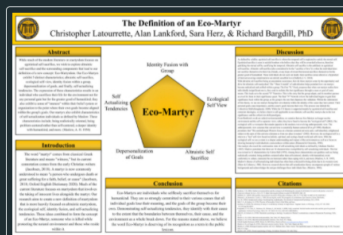


Eco-Martyrs & Maslow



Alan Lankford

APA 2021 - Eco-Martyr Stories Posters



Publications

Bargdill, R., Lankford, A., Creed, R., Purrington, W., Rios-Santos, K., Latourrette, C., Guz-Montgomery, J. (2021). Eco-Martyrdom: Positive elements of self-sacrifice. Theory and Psychology. doi.org/10.1177/09593543211040792

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