My project will aim to see how climate change induced issues such as fires, droughts, floods, deforestation, desertification, and other catastrophic events in recent years affect indigenous populations. Specifically, I would like to see if there is any correlation between indigenous populations displacement and language death rates.

This is an important issue to touch on as languages hold a significant cultural heritage and can contain knowledge only transferable in that language. Furthermore, indigenous human rights are a topic that should be in the news. This is new as it will touch on recent climate related catastrophes and their effect on indigenous populations. It is of public interest as climate change and the death of languages and cultures affect everyone around the world. Furthermore there are indigenous populations located all around the globe.

Some specific questions I would like to touch on are related to the amazons. For example with the recent fires, have indigenous populations been displaced and has there been an increase in the language death rate.

A resource I plan to use is the dataset available via request by the UNESCO “Language death data set”. Furthermore, there is a nonprofit called [Wikitongues](https://wikitongues.org/), which aims to recompile videos of people speaking languages all around the world: <https://for-the-record.ghost.io/a-catalog-of-every-language-in-the-world/>

I think it could be an interesting take to try to speak to a member or founder of this company. National Geographic also mentions Wikitongues, whose collections will be stored at the American Folklife Center through a partnership with the Library of Congress. in this article: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2018/04/saving-dying-disappearing-languages-wikitongues-culture/>

Another great project is funded by the [Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages](https://livingtongues.org/) (contacted as well) who aim to build [Talking Dictionaries](http://talkingdictionary.swarthmore.edu/) comprised of definitions, audio files, and images.

Some further links to read are [Cultural Survival’s website](https://www.culturalsurvival.org/get-involved), The Linguistic Society of America’s [Committee on Endangered Languages](http://www.linguisticsociety.org/about/who-we-are/committees/endangered-languages-and-their-preservation-celp), [Amnesty International](https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/indigenous-peoples/), [Endangered League Alliance](http://elalliance.org/) and [The guardian database.](https://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2011/apr/15/language-extinct-endangered#data)  Finally, a more concrete source to speak to is the Maryland [Language Science Center at](https://languagescience.umd.edu/people/all) UMD.

As to displacement data, I believe this may be a bit more difficult to manage than language death rates, but the information should be obtainable from [the Department of Geographical Sciences.](https://geog.umd.edu/landing/Research) Some more useful data may be found on the website of the [Department of Economics and Social Affairs UN](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/publications/desktop-publications.html) or the [UN Refugee Agency website](https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/data.html).

If it is difficult to access data related to displacement of Indigenous populations, as from an initial search this seems to be the case,  I will focus my story on the question if language death rates have accelerated and what locations are most affected. This can be presented in infographics and maps.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/08/1043871>

**peru =**

[**https://festival.si.edu/blog/2015/saving-perus-endangered-languages/**](https://festival.si.edu/blog/2015/saving-perus-endangered-languages/)

* **Living tongues- national geographic -** [**https://www.nationalgeographic.org/archive/projects/enduring-voices/resources/**](https://www.nationalgeographic.org/archive/projects/enduring-voices/resources/)
* **Contact after initial reporting with university**

**Ng Work with** [**https://www.nationalgeographic.org/archive/projects/enduring-voices/resources/**](https://www.nationalgeographic.org/archive/projects/enduring-voices/resources/)

**And data analysis with data**

**Faculty UMD- ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

Kathryn Lafrenz Samuels is Associate Professor and Director of the Cultural and Heritage Management graduate program in the Department of Anthropology.

* intersections between cultural heritage and climate change.
* The differential responsibilities and vulnerabilities involved--for example, the fundamental 'paradox' that those societies historically most responsible for climate change will be the least impacted, whereas those historically least responsible will be the most impacted--require an approach that connects past and present and privileges both within the same analytical frame, telling these histories and narratives in textural detail
* [**https://anth.umd.edu/facultyprofile/lafrenz-samuels/kathryn**](https://anth.umd.edu/facultyprofile/lafrenz-samuels/kathryn)
* Professor Paolisso -
* <https://anth.umd.edu/facultyprofile/paolisso/michael>
* has conducted short- and long-term fieldwork in the areas of environment and development in Venezuela, Honduras, Ecuador, Kenya, Nepal and the United States.  For the past 15 years he has focused his research on the human dimensions of a range of environmental issues confronting the Chesapeake Bay, including management of natural resources, particularly fisheries and agricultural lands, water pollution, restoration, social justice, socio-ecological resilience and climate change.

[**https://anth.umd.edu/facultyprofile/lafrenz-samuels/kathryn**](https://anth.umd.edu/facultyprofile/lafrenz-samuels/kathryn)

**L.Jen Shaffer –**

**-** I am an ecological and environmental anthropologist focused on the exploration of local indigenous knowledge to answer questions about adapting and responding to environmental risk and change, cultural knowledge and institutions shaping adaptation, vulnerability and resilience, and environmental and historical constraints on human activities.

[**https://anth.umd.edu/facultyprofile/shaffer/l.-jen**](https://anth.umd.edu/facultyprofile/shaffer/l.-jen)

**Language Science Department -** [**https://languagescience.umd.edu/people/all**](https://languagescience.umd.edu/people/all)

**Emailed WIKITONGUES and Living Tongues for endangered languges**

Dear Wikitongues,

I am a graduate student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism. I have a high interest in understanding what the future of languages in the world will look like and came across the Wikitongues project.

I have decided, for a reporting class project, to investigate the current language death rate and see if

if climate change induced issues such as fires, droughts, floods, deforestation, desertification, and other catastrophic events in recent years have affected language death rates. For example , indigenous populations in the Amazon after the recent fires.

I would like to see if there is any correlation between indigenous populations displacement and language death rates as well as what locations are most affected by language death and what can be done.

I think the Wikitongues is a great initiative fighting for language diversity.

I am reaching out as I would love the opportunity to speak with anyone in the Wikitongues project who would be willing to chat over the phone or skype.

My number is 984-220-7660 and my email is [lperezu@umd.edu](mailto:lperezu@umd.edu)

I appreciate any help you can give me!

Best,

**Luciana**

**2. CALL NAT GEO**

**3.**