Declan Taylor: Guest Speaker Quiz
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This MPED course taught me a lot about what it means to be a scientist, and what that career field is like. The biology professors I have had so far at UBC have all been late-career researchers, none have been as open and transparent as the four guest lecturers we have heard from. The talks that Emma Atkinson and Dr. Sean Godwin gave got me thinking about what I want my future in science to look like. Both had incredible photos of Salmon Coast Field Station, which is in a part of the world that I love and have wanted to spend more time! They made me realize how meaningful it would be to do research in a place that I am connect with and inspired by. I've always felt that the people interacting with an ecosystem are an inseparable part that ecosystem; that studying an ecology also requires connecting with and learning from local people. It was cool to see that Sean was able to use his talents as a researcher to work and co-develop knowledge with Indigenous Communities up near Salmon Coast. Collectively, these lectures worked to shape an idea of research for me that is collaborative, sensitive, connected, and meaningful.

Dr. Karlisa Callwood's talk was inspiring and made me think about how to integrate social science aspects of research into a potential career in biology. I appreciated her note that there is often tension and distrust between researchers and the communities that researchers are working in, especially when there are colonial and racial power dynamics at play. I am interested in conservation and particularly in policy; her tip to be sensitive of social context, and to be ethical in everything we do, is something I hope to carry with me in my career.

Dr. Goodwin and Emma Atkinson both talked about the value of computer skills and coding as a researcher. This course, along with DS/ADA and my research assistant job at UBC, have all worked to give me a solid base in R. Hearing this tip from multiple researchers who are working in a field that aligns highly with my interests is a good reminder to keep learning computer skills! Sean also talked about the value of understanding modern statistics; this has made me value Cole's modelling lectures even more, and prompted me to be more engaged/ask more questions in ADA as we've started to work through GLMs and other stats tools. I also really appreciated the conceptual parts of Sean's lecture (focused on salmon science). It was great foundational knowledge to have before visiting the hatchery, it also enriched my understanding of his paper. In rereading my notes from his lecture, I feel like I'm better equipped to discuss fisheries and fish farms outside of class.

Emma's and Karlisa's discussions about science communication got me thinking about trying to work in a communication focused role. Going into tomorrow's presentations, I am thinking about Karlisa's idea that a good scientist can explain their work to *anyone*. Pedagogically I'm completely new to talking about science; I'm excited to see what I can learn from my peer's presentations and the discussions we have about this assignment and science communication.

I have had the opportunity to work in the natural history film industry (i.e., on projects like Planet Earth). I often think about pursuing a career in the film industry, and I think combining science communication with film making could be really rewarding work. Getting work in that industry is all about connections, and I can see how networking and professional friendships, as described by Karlisa and Sean, will be important down the road.