

NEXUS Newsletter

SPRING

Spring, 2024

UTAH RADON LAB



January was Radon Awareness Month. The students in the Utah Radon Lab encouraged and continue to encourage Utahns to test their homes for radon. Radon is a cancer-causing radioactive gas that is colorless and odorless, making it hard to detect in your home without regular testing.

Low-cost test kits can be purchased by going to the [Utah Department of Environmental Quality website](https://www.utah.gov/EnvironmentalQuality). Learn more about the harmful effects of radon and the importance of testing your home by going to radon.utah.edu.



NEXUS RECEIVES CONTINUING AUTHORIZATION STATUS

The **Interdisciplinary Exchange for Utah Science** (NEXUS) has achieved continuing authorization status! NEXUS, dedicated to fostering collaboration across diverse fields of study, has been at the forefront of promoting interdisciplinary research at the U. Securing continuing authorization is a testament to the NEXUS Center's sustained excellence and impact. This status allows the center to maintain its operations and continue serving as a hub for interdisciplinary collaboration. Capitalizing on NEXUS core programming, resources, and partnerships, four key goals will guide the next five years: catalyzing connections, democratizing data, investigating interdisciplinary issues, and communicating science to the community. To catalyze connections, NEXUS has developed several working groups, including the Veterans' Economic Well-Being and the Future of Food, aimed at securing new external funding. The promotion of the use of the Wasatch Front Research Data Center has been a key activity in democratizing data. As a way of jumpstarting the investigation of interdisciplinary issues, NEXUS awarded several destinations grants to move previously unawarded grant proposals to a more successful resubmission for external funding consideration. One of the ways that NEXUS has facilitated communicating science is to support groups like the Utah Radon Lab's efforts in community outreach.



Interdisciplinary research is increasingly recognized as a key driver of innovation and problem-solving. As we embark on the next phase of its journey, NEXUS remains dedicated to pushing the boundaries of interdisciplinary research, making valuable contributions to our collective understanding of the world's most pressing challenges.

IMPACTS



WFRDC PROJECTS: 15+



GRANTS AWARDED: 33



FUNDING: \$81+ MILLION



PUBLICATIONS: 119+

nexus.utah.edu

NEXUS MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NAMES NALINI NADKARNI EXPLORER AT LARGE

To view the full article, [CLICK HERE](https://blog.nationalgeographic.org/2023/10/18/national-geographic-society-names-nalini-nadkarni-explorer-at-large/) or go to: <https://blog.nationalgeographic.org/2023/10/18/national-geographic-society-names-nalini-nadkarni-explorer-at-large/>

METHODS LABS

This interdisciplinary methods colloquium provides introductory training, education, and exposure to research methods for faculty and graduate students in the social sciences at the University of Utah. Our goal is to supplement existing methodology courses and introduce scholars to methods used in other departments. By bringing faculty and graduate students together, we will forge interdisciplinary connections and begin to establish a university-wide interdisciplinary methods training program.

View recordings of the latest Methods Labs by [CLICKING HERE](#) or going to nexus.utah.edu.

WANT TO BECOME A NEXUS MEMBER?

NEXUS welcomes researchers across the University of Utah who desire to collaborate on research projects. Potential members may be faculty or graduate students from all backgrounds. Applying is quick and easy. [CLICK HERE](#) to apply or go to nexus.utah.edu.

Questions? Email Marisa Brunsvik at marisa.brunsvik@utah.edu

WASATCH FRONT RESEARCH DATA CENTER GRAND OPENING

Last March marked the grand opening of the Wasatch Front Research Data Center (WFRDC), where Census and data agency officials joined the official center opening, which was delayed because of COVID. The number of projects at the WFRDC is increasing steadily and providing unique access to sensitive data in a secure facility. Coming up this September, the WFRDC will host the national Federal Statistical Research Data Center (FSRDC) business meeting and research conference. This event will bring in scholars, census leaders, FSRDC administrators, and data agency representatives, bringing national attention and visibility to the WFRDC and the research community at the University of Utah.



UPCOMING EVENTS

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A NEXUS MEMBER TO ATTEND THESE EVENTS

- **Future of Food Working Group Strategy Planning Retreat** - February 28th, 11a-3p : As a follow-up to the September 2023 Future of Food Town Hall and kickoff event, the Future of Food Working Group is hosting an in-person strategy planning retreat. To learn more, [CLICK HERE](#). To RSVP, [CLICK HERE](#). Please RSVP by Wednesday 2/14.
- **Destination Grant Presentations** - March 21st, 10:30a - 11:30a, GC 3380: Hear about the research that NEXUS Destination grant receivers are doing. Snacks will be provided.
- **Introduction to Natural Language Processing with Application to Clinical Data Science presented by Alec Chapman** - April 11th, 9a-10:15a, GC 3380: Food will be served
- **Writing Retreat** - May 8th, 9am -4pm, GC 3380: A one-day retreat to work on fellowship/grant applications or to develop larger projects. Food will be provided. Please Register [Here](#).



“...I believe NEXUS is increasingly being considered the central location for multidisciplinary research - a neutral space for folks from all over campus to meet and convene. It is a central hub to the community as well and serves as a forum for community outreach, which is greatly needed at the U.”

- Tabitha Benney