

# **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.

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## **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.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Education/Learning, Research, Maritime

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## **Areas of Expertise**

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

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## **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

**Online and Hybrid Learning Workshop**  
Earth Educators? Rendezvous

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**Education**

**Oregon State University**  
Ph.D. Oceanography

**Wesleyan University**  
B.A. Earth Science

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**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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