

## 5TH ANNUAL BREATHE WORKSHOP KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOS



### BRIAN FIES

Writer and Cartoonist, "A Fire Story"



Brian Fies is a writer and cartoonist. The day after he and his wife, Karen, lost their home in northern California's Tubbs fire, Brian began writing and drawing "A Fire Story". Posted online, the comic went viral, and was seen by more than 3 million people. Brian expanded A Fire Story into a full-length graphic novel published by Abrams ComicArts in 2019; an updated and expanded edition was published in 2021. His other graphic novels are Mom's Cancer, Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow, and The Last Mechanical Monster. Brian's work in comics has received several honors, including the comics industry's Eisner, Harvey and Inkpot awards, as well as the American Astronautical Society's Emme Award, Germany's Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis, and a television Emmy Award. He lives in his rebuilt home, north of Santa Rosa.

### SYDNEY GLASSMAN, PH.D.

Assistant Professor, Microbiology & Plant Pathology - UCR

Dr. Sydney Glassman's research focuses on understanding patterns and processes governing microbial diversity, and their ecosystem functions such as terrestrial symbioses and decomposition. Dr. Glassman is particularly interested in how increasing disturbances in the age of the Anthropocene impact soil microbial communities and their functions. She specializes in mycorrhizal fungi and soil fungi and bacteria. Sydney received her B.A. in Biology at the University of Pennsylvania, where she also received a Master of Environmental Studies. Dr. Glassman completed her Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy, & Management at UC Berkeley with Prof. Tom Bruns. She then completed her post-doc on microbial contribution to leaf litter decomposition with Prof. Jennifer Martiny at UC Irvine. On July 1, 2018, Sydney joined the faculty of the Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology at the University of California, Riverside as an Assistant Professor. Her lab focuses on understanding the role of soil fungi and bacteria in ecosystem regeneration after wildfires.



### TARIK BENMARHIA, PH.D.

Assistant Professor, Climate, Atmospheric Science & Physical Oceanography - UCSD



Tarik Benmarhnia is an environmental epidemiologist at the University of California San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography where he leads the climate change epidemiology lab. He finished his PhD in epidemiology jointly from the University of Montreal and Paris Sud and a post-doctoral position at McGill University with the Institute for Health and Social Policy. His work is combining epidemiological methods with environmental and econometric models with a specific focus on health policies and environmental justice.



TUESDAY, MAY 10TH, 2022 | 9:00AM - 3:00PM VIA ZOOM

<https://ucr-edu-hipaa.zoom.us/j/92833981254?pwd=VEdqNEtIWlVrSkRLZmdlZUlwSUNCZz09>

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