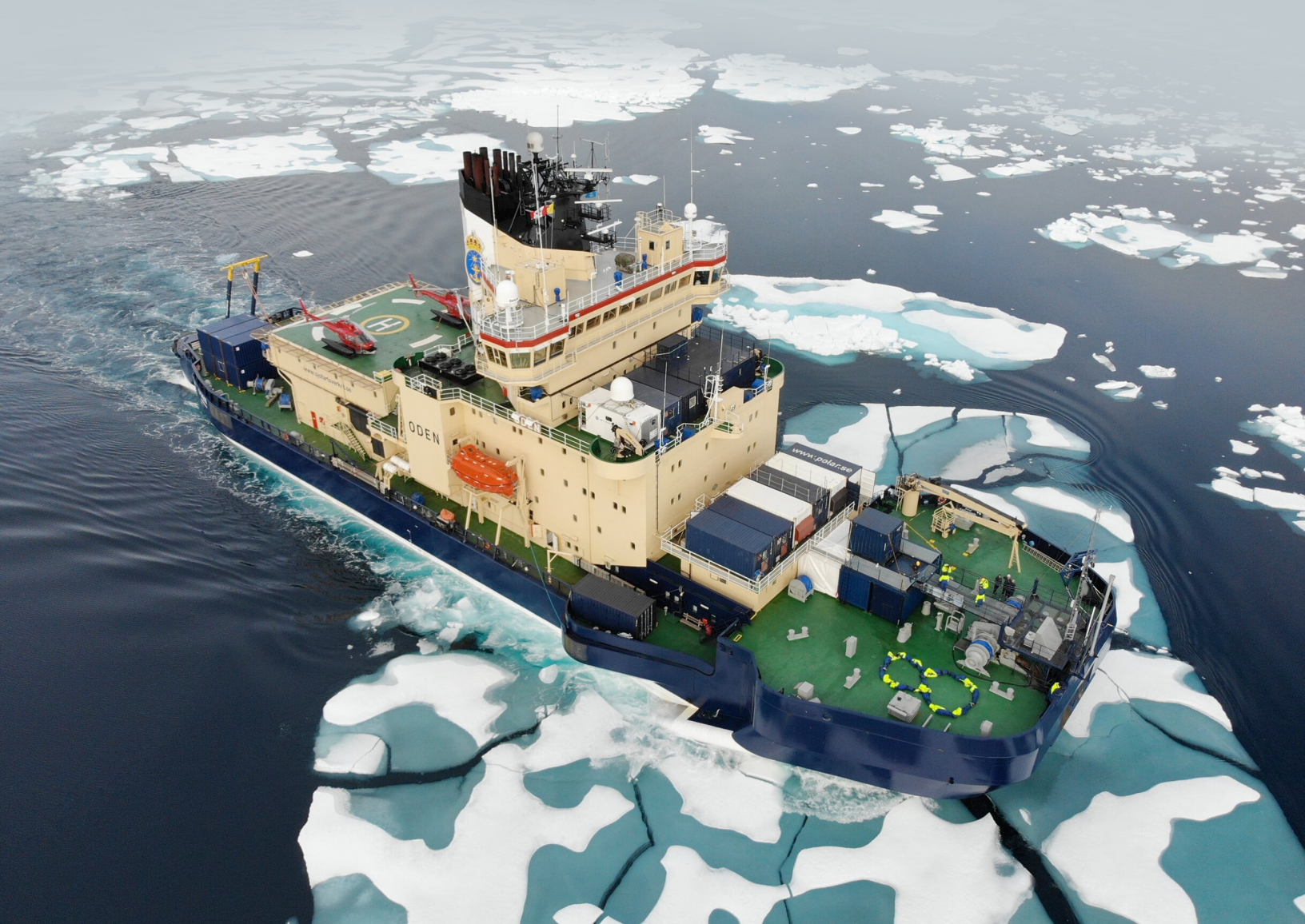


# FROZEN OBSESSION

Thursday, April 22, 2021 / 7:00 PM

with  
Hester Blum, David Clark & Korenna Estes







Though climate change is a fundamentally global phenomenon, nowhere are its effects more pronounced and observable than in the world's polar regions. The documentary *Frozen Obsession* follows the 18-day, 2,000-mile Northwest Passage Project expedition through the stunningly beautiful and extreme Canadian Arctic, aboard the Swedish research icebreaker *Oden*. For centuries, sailors were obsessed with finding a path across the mostly frozen Arctic. Now, scientists are racing to understand a fast-warming Arctic, exploring how environmental changes currently unfolding in the polar regions will affect life on a planetary scale. With support from the National Science Foundation and additional support from the Heising-Simons Foundation, the innovative Northwest Passage Project (NPP) consists of a team of scientists, education professionals, a journalist, an Arctic scholar, and 23 graduate and undergraduate student science majors.

Director David Clark and expedition participants Hester Blum (Penn State University) and Korenna Estes (CSU-Fresno) will join moderator Ian Kellett (UCSB) for a discussion of *Frozen Obsession*.

Please note that this event will not include a screening. Registered participants will receive a link to stream *Frozen Obsession* two days in advance of the event.

This event is sponsored by the Carsey-Wolf Center.





## GUEST BIOGRAPHIES:

### Hester Blum (expedition participant, Penn State University)

Hester Blum is Professor of English at Penn State University. Her most recent book, *The News at the Ends of the Earth: The Print Culture of Polar Exploration*, was published by Duke University Press in 2019. She is also the author of *The View from the Masthead: Maritime Imagination and Antebellum American Sea Narratives* (2008), which received the John Gardner Maritime Research award. Her edited volumes include a forthcoming edition of Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick* for Oxford World's Classics; the essay collection *Turns of Event: Nineteenth-Century American Literary Studies in Motion* (2016); special issues of *Atlantic Studies* (2013) and the *Journal of Transnational American Studies* (2019) on oceanic and archipelagic studies; and a scholarly edition of *Horrors of Slavery* (2008), William Ray's 1808 Barbary captivity narrative. Blum contributes frequently to *Avidly*, a channel of the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. She participated in an Arctic climate change expedition in 2019 with the Northwest Passage Project, and was a 2019-2020 Guggenheim Fellow.



### David Clark (director)

David Clark is an award-winning producer/director/writer who has been specializing in non-fiction motion picture and television programs in natural history, science and adventure for over 40 years. With a reputation for creating films with substantive, credible science content, Clark has been the Co-Principal Investigator on several National Science Foundation funded projects. He has produced/directed eight large-format IMAX 3D films that have grossed over \$150M to date. Much of Clark's work has been in the realm of natural history. Clark was the supervising producer for 20 episodes of *The World of Audubon* environmental series on Turner Broadcasting, and produced 7 programs about modern marine science for the *Science of the Deep* Science Channel series. He has also produced natural history films about humpback whales, grizzly bears, endangered Caribbean birds, and the wildlife of the Galapagos Islands.

Mr. Clark holds a BFA from New York University, is a member of the Directors Guild of America, and a National Associate of the National Research Council of the National Academies. His films have earned two national Emmys and numerous other awards including the prestigious National Academies Communication Award for a Discovery Science Channel program.



### Korena Estes (expedition participant, CSU-Fresno)

Korena Estes was an undergraduate student at California State University Channel Islands when she participated on the eighteen-day expedition through the Northwest Passage. She was a part of the microscopic communities research team and conducted a suite of onboard experiments to examine plankton habitats. Now, Korena is a part of the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Bridge to Doctorate program at California State University – Fresno. She is pursuing her Biology Master's degree and is studying Alzheimer's disease using the model organism, *Drosophila melanogaster*. She is passionate about the sciences and hopes to continue to inspire all generations to be engaged in our surrounding environment and to be mindful how our daily actions may impact Earth.





## Moderator Ian Kellett (Film and Media Studies, UCSB)

Ian Kellett is an accomplished field producer, cinematographer, storyteller and performer. Working with National Geographic, BBC, WoodsHole Oceanographic Institution and Ocean X, Ian produced dozens of expeditions connecting media to innovative ocean solutions. As a director of photography he lensed award-winning films including National Geographic's *Defender of the Wild* and several globally-distributed TV series including *Pacific Abyss* and *Oceans*. His lifelong passion is to create transformative experiences and stories that support thriving stewardship of aquatic systems.







## **CWC Docs**

The Carsey-Wolf Center is committed to screening documentaries from across the world that engage with contemporary and historical issues, especially regarding social justice and environmental concerns. Documentaries allow filmmakers to address pressing issues and frame the critical debates of our time.

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