

AMBIKA KAMATH

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FOUNDING PARTNER, LIMINAL

Making science make sense

Liminal is a science communication collective that cuts through the noise with *sensemaking*, an approach to science communication that is deeply personal, politically engaged, and massively multidisciplinary. Liminal specializes in coaching, training, and collaborations for scientists who want their work to matter but feel alone and adrift in large volumes of low-value advice about how to do that. We make science communication make sense to scientists, to help science make sense for everyone.

STRENGTHS AND EXPERTISE

Research Design & Execution

Creative Synthesis

Principled Leadership

Writing & Editing

Verbal & Visual Instruction

Innovative Pedagogy

Facilitation

Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration

Community Building

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Liminal

Founding Partner

September 2023–Present

- Developing Liminal as a member-run collective. Creating a novel organizational structure for collective decision making and equitable profit sharing that meets the needs of a diverse group of science communication professionals.
- Expanding offerings from Liminal to incorporate insights from feminist science studies, therapeutic frameworks, and community and labor organizing, to foster deep engagement with the intertwining of science, emotion, and political thought.

Feminist Lenses for Animal Interactions Research (F.L.A.I.R.) Lab

University of Colorado Boulder

Principal Investigator & Assistant Professor

August 2021–December 2023

- Assembled and managed an cross-disciplinary animal behavior research laboratory. Supervised research and mentored two postdoctoral scholars, one master's student, and three undergraduates.
- Developed and taught two undergraduate courses (*Animal Behavior*, *Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles*) with an "ungrading" pedagogical approach focused on fostering students' creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking skills.

Miller Institute for Basic Research in Science

University of California Berkeley

Postdoctoral Fellow

July 2018–July 2021

- Developed a cutting-edge cross disciplinary research program in animal behavior, melding science with feminist science and technology studies.
- Co-led the editorial team of a special issue of *The American Naturalist*, a leading biology journal, that showcased the scope and transformative potential of cross-disciplinary scholarship in biology.

WRITING

I write about animal behavior, the human experience, the scientific process, and intersections among these themes.

- **Wild at Heart: A Feminist Science of Animal Behavior.**

Book forthcoming from MIT Press in Spring 2025. Co-authored with Melina Packer, *Wild at Heart* explores how we can transform the science of animal behavior when we embrace the fact that scientists are people and science is an inescapably political endeavor.

- **Our Animal Lives.**

A column in *Catapult* magazine about how we see ourselves, or don't, in the animal world

- **Creature Feature.**

A column in *BLink*, a magazine from *The Hindu Business Line*, about the wonder we can find in the biology of commonplace organisms.

ORGANIZING

I am a passionate and experienced labor organizer, with particular skill in member recruitment, media and communication, labor-management relations, and leadership development.

- **United Campus Workers Colorado (UCW-CWA Local 7799)**

- Led a team of Local 7799 members in discussion with CO House of Representatives Majority Leader to advocate for member-led unions and strong bargaining rights for public sector workers.

- **UAW Local 5810 Union of Postdocs and Academic Researchers**

- Steward: Had organizing conversations with new hires, consistently signed new members, frequently facilitated biweekly steward meetings and monthly membership meetings.
 - Elected leadership: Head Steward and member of Joint Council, Guide on the Executive Board.
 - Led internal organizing efforts to build member leadership prior to contract bargaining.
 - Member of Joint Health Care Committee. Participated in regular labor-management meetings to convey member experiences of existing health benefits and to demand specific improvements.
 - Founded peer mental health support group with dual focus on mutual care and organizing for change.
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DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

I have been committed to the cause of social justice throughout my career. In addition to reckoning with the political stakes of science in my scientific research and science writing, I have conducted:

- **Trainings:** Created and led trainings for scientists in the core principles and practices of fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - **Consultations:** Conducted pro-bono consultations with over a dozen academic professionals to analyze their unique workplace challenges and identify leverage points for moving towards greater diversity, equity, and inclusion.
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EDUCATION

Harvard University	Organization for Tropical Studies	Amherst College
Ph.D. - 2017	2009, 2012	A.B. - 2011
Organismic and Evolutionary Biology	Undergraduate and graduate courses in field biology	Biology
