Whitney Sanford received her PhD in Religious Studies from the University of Pennsylvania, and her primary areas of teaching and expertise are Religion and Nature and Religions of Asia. Her current research focuses on environmental movements of the global South, religious attitudes towards agricultural sustainability, and the relationship between agricultural biotechnology and forms of neo-colonialism.

Dr. Sanford has done extensive field research in India, and her newest project "Gandhi’s Environmental Legacy: Food Sovereignty and Social Movements" investigates Gandhi’s influence on sustainability and food and water sovereignty movements. An avid kayaker and hiker, she is also interested in how participation in outdoor recreation activities functions as religious experience and to what extent this participation leads to a practiced environmental ethic. Dr. Sanford is an active participant in the greening of her campus and sustainable living programs in her own community of Gainesville, Florida.

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