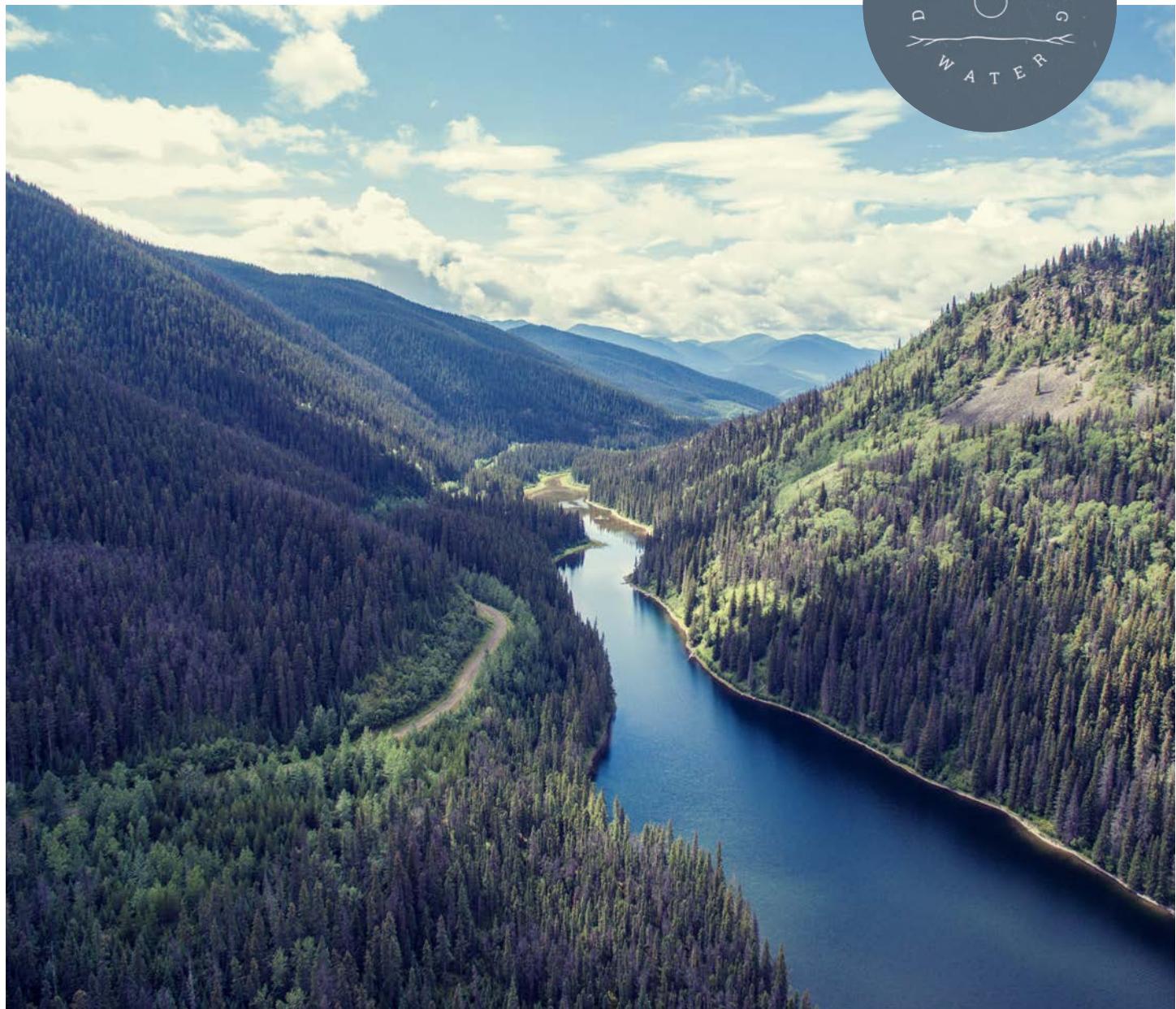


Sustainable Water

Governance and

Indigenous Law

YEAR 1 / 2016-2017



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

The SSHRC Funded Partnership Grant runs from 2016 to 2023. We have accomplished much in this first year of the project and our hope is that this newsletter will highlight these achievements and showcase our goals for next year.

This research project seeks to advance scholarship on Indigenous law and sustainable water co-governance. Our long-term goal is to create a self-sustaining water and ecological monitoring program that will enhance protection of water resources and fulfill the promise of Indigenous water governance. Indigenous voices and perspectives are at the core of our team, which includes Indigenous knowledge keepers and community members, water scientists, social scientists, and artists. Working with Indigenous communities in Northern and Western Canada, we will create tools to support Indigenous water co-governance. Leading Canadian legal scholars will devise concrete strategies for governance reforms to support the uptake of these tools.

Our team currently includes a dozen academic institutions, another dozen community partners, and over 20 students.

Our research grant runs from 2016 to 2023, and is supported by Partnership Grant funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (one of Canada's federal academic funding agencies). We also gratefully acknowledge funding from The Gordon Foundation, IndigenEYEZ, Keepers of the Water, New Energy Media, Violet Inch Records, Dechinta, Olthius Kleer Townsend Law, Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, MOA, Hallenbeck Consultants.



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Working Groups





Knowledge Translation

HANNAH ASKEW, JILL BAIRD, KAREN BAKKER, CALEB BEHN,
RUTGERD BOELENS, GWAII EDENSHAW, ZACK EMBREE,
KINNIE STARR, RITA WONG

The Knowledge Translation group has been taking the lead on a number of knowledge mobilization activities. In collaboration with the Indigenous Radio Collective and Unceded Airwaves 2 podcasts have been created, and a further 3 are planned for the summer. Zack has also produced an excellent video from the summer 2015 Water Bush Camp, and will be creating a further two videos titled "How we Work" and "Indigenous Law" from interviews conducted during our meeting on Gambier Island.

Caleb participated in the Pipeline Projects "Talk Forward" and gave a talk at the University of Regina titled "Indigenous Water Law in the Anthropocene: Reconciliation Beyond the Human".

Rita has been busy organizing World Water Day with Mallory Amirault, a successful event that brought together artists and speakers for both artistic co-creation, as well as a live-cast for Unceded Airwaves. Next year we will be developing further collaborations with artists and continuing the important work on ensuring that our team's work is accessible to multiple communities.

The Knowledge Translation Group is also in conversation with the Testify Project regarding potential future collaborations.



Indigenous Research Methods

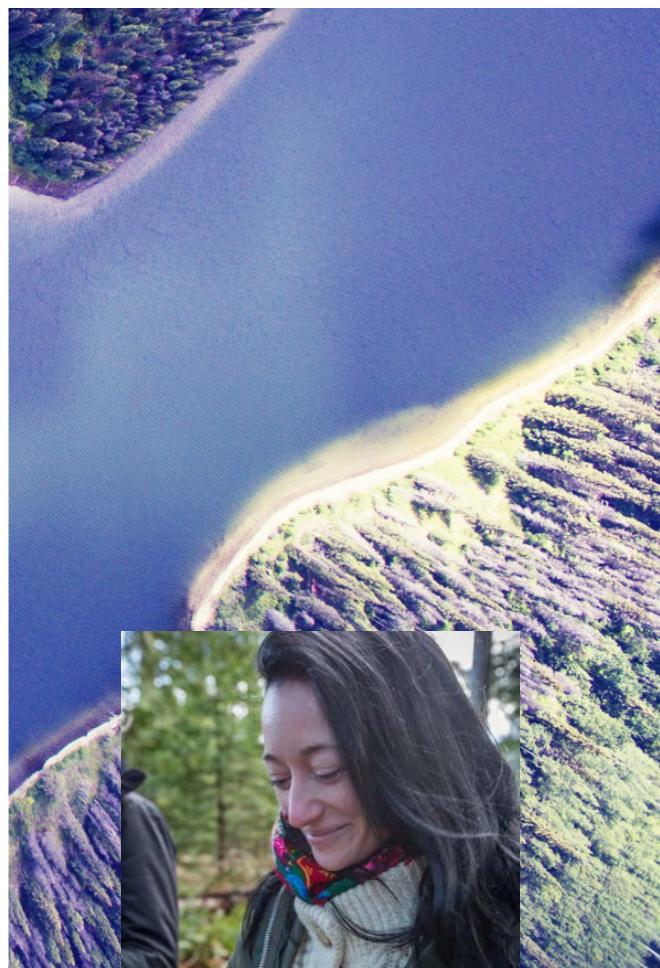
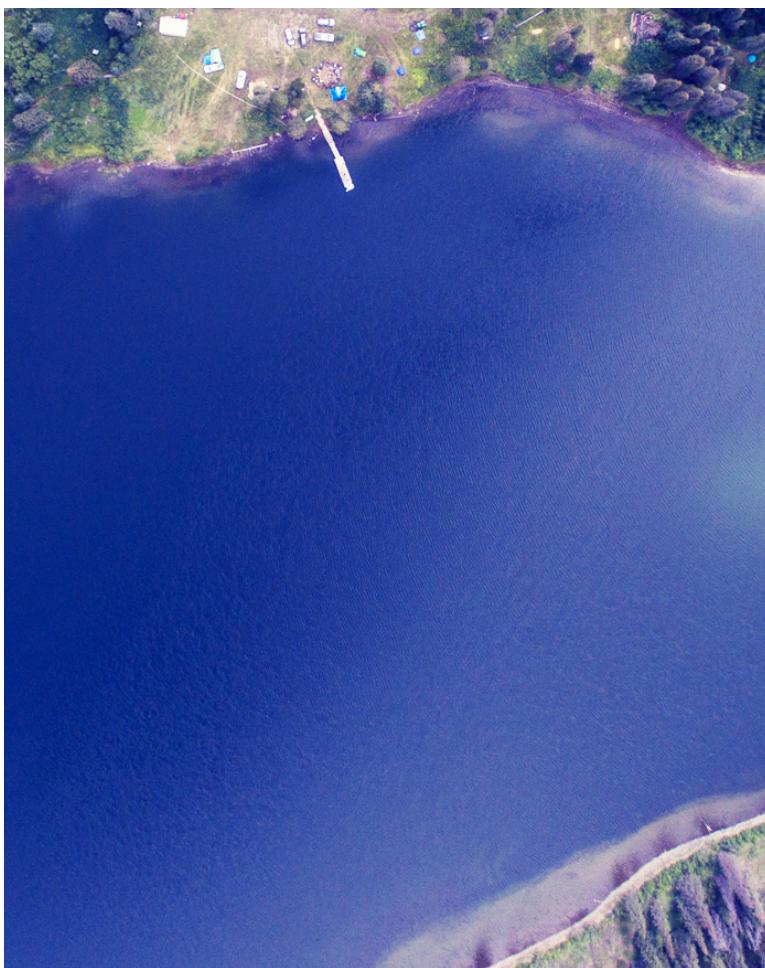
CARRIE BOURASSA, SYBIL DRIVER, LINC KESLER, DEBORAH MCGREGOR, EMMA NORMAN, AARON WITHAM,
(RA: RACHEL ARSENAULT)

The Indigenous Research Methods group has been working closely with Research Assistant, Rachel Arsenault, to provide the foundation for ethical research. In addition to the annotated bibliography shared on Gambier, they produced a briefing note titled "Reciprocal Research and Learning with Indigenous Communities" as working towards a co-authored publication.

Rachel will continue to work with the team on a co-authored publication to be submitted Summer 2017 and will be working on further publications throughout 2017-2018.

PUBLICATION UNDERWAY

Rachel Arsenault, Carrie Bourassa, Sibyl Diver, Deborah McGregor, Emma Norman and Aaron Witham (in progress) "Shifting the Framework of Canadian Water Governance through Indigenous Research Methods: Acknowledging the Past with an Eye on the Future," Planned Submission to Water.



Community-Based Research

ERIN FREELAND-BALLANTYNE, JESSICA HALLENBECK, LEILA HARRIS, MARK JOHNSON, MADJID MOHSENI, KELLY TERBASKET

The Community-Based Research group has been starting work on the Reciprocal Learning Framework. Dechinta has hired Jessie MacKenzie who will be based out of Yellowknife and will be working with Erin and Glen to conduct interviews with Community Based Water Monitoring experts in the NWT.

In addition, content for the collaboratively written Reciprocal Learning Framework will be produced during Spring and Summer semester at Dechinta, and will be available for circulation at our Fall meeting.

Finally, the team is working on a peer reviewed publication on decolonial pedagogies, planned for Summer 2017.

PUBLICATION UNDERWAY

Erin Freeland Ballantyne, Glen Coulthard (in progress) "Reflecting on Land-based pedagogies." Planned submission to *Curriculum and Pedagogy*.



Indigenous Governance/ Law

HANNAH ASKEW, JOHN BORROWS, GORDON CHRISTIE, AIMEE CRAFT, GLEN COULTHARD, MICHELLE DIAGLE, LARRY INNES, LINDA NOWLAN, MERRELL-ANN PHARE

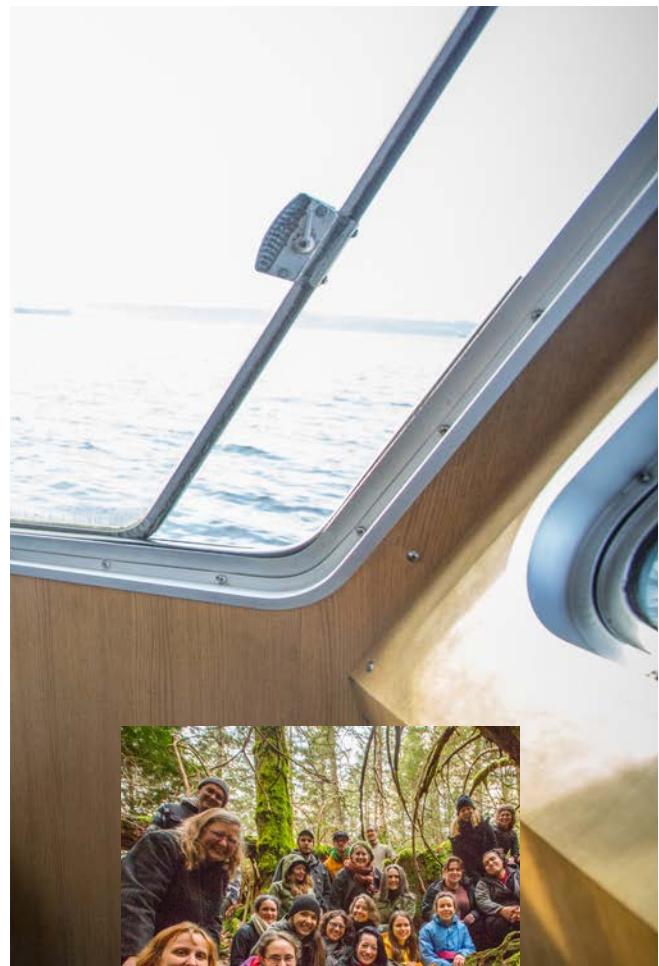
The Indigenous Governance and Law Group has been extending excellent work through the RELAW Project and West Coast Environmental Law. Two fantastic research assistants, Rayanna Hourie and Raven-Dominique Gobeil, have been welcomed on the project for Summer 2017. They will be working with Professor Aimee Craft on two reviews, one of Anishinaabe Water Law and a second of Indigenous Water Law across Canada.

The team at WCEL has also been working with Corey Snelgrove and Alisa Koebel on a review of the normative and legal implications of the UNDRIP on duty to consult.

This is part of the team's successful application to the Knowledge Synthesis Grant competition. The team will be reaching out for interviews in the upcoming months, with a final report deadline of September 11th, 2017. The team will produce two reports; "Current State of Research" and "Policy Recommendations" in addition to the report produced for SSHRC.

PUBLICATIONS UNDERWAY

Aimée Craft, Rayanna Hourie (in progress)
"Indigenous Law in Canada: A Review"
Aimée Craft, Raven-Dominique Gobeil (in progress) "Anishinaabe Water Law"



Policy Innovation

KATE NEVILLE, ROSEMARY KNIGHT, ALICE COHEN, CAROYN
DUBOISE, STEVE ELLIS, ANVER VENGOSH, ERIKA WEINTHAL
(RA: MELPATKWE MATTHEWS)

The Policy Innovation group has been working with Land and Food Sciences Student, Melpatkwe Matthews, on the creation of an annotated bibliography on community based water monitoring which will be available for circulation in early Summer 2017.

They will be working with Melpatkwe on a co-authored peer-reviewed publication during Summer 2017 and will be starting work with Indigenous communities/leaders in the next phase of research.

PUBLICATION UNDERWAY

Alice Cohen, Kate Neville, & Melpetkwe Matthew (in progress) "Community based monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge – a review." Planned submission to *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*.

"Through a review of community based monitoring (CBM) programs from around the world, for resources ranging from freshwater to caribou to fisheries, this paper interrogates the integration of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into monitoring frameworks, with a critical lens on the implications and contradictions of aligning settler policy processes with TEK".

Deliverables



Completed

Hidalgo, Juan Pablo, Rutgerd Boelens, and Jeroen Vos. "De-colonizing water. Dispossession, water insecurity, and Indigenous claims for resources, authority, and territory." *Water History* 9.1 (2017): 67-85.

Norman, Emma S., and Karen Bakker. "Transcending Borders Through Postcolonial Water Governance? Indigenous Water Governance Across the Canada-US Border." *Water Policy and Governance in Canada*. Springer International Publishing, 2017. 139-157.

Simms, R., L. Harris, K. Bakker, and N. Joe. 2016. "Navigating the Tensions in Collaborative Watershed Governance: Water Governance and Indigenous Communities in British Columbia, Canada." *Geoforum* 73: 6–16. doi:10.1016/j.geoforum.2016.04.005



Underway

Rachel Arsenault, Carrie Bourassa, Sibyl Diver, Deborah McGregor, Emma Norman and Aaron Witham (in progress) "Shifting the Framework of Canadian Water Governance through Indigenous Research Methods: Acknowledging the Past with an Eye on the Future," Planned Submission to Water.

Erin Freeland Ballantyne, Glen Coulthard (in progress) "Reflecting on Land-based pedagogies." Planned submission to Curriculum and Pedagogy.

Aimee Craft, Rayanna Hourie (in progress) "Indigenous Law in Canada: A Review"

Aimme Craft, Raven-Dominique Gobeil (in progress) "Anishinaabe Water Law"

Alice Cohen, Kate Neville, & Melpetkwe Matthew (in progress) "Community based monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge – a review." Planned submission to Annual Review of Environment and Resources.

Bakker, K., R. Hendriks, and P. Raphaels. "The Site C Dam: Debating the water-energy nexus in Canada." Planned submission to Journal of the Canadian Water Resources Association.

Bakker, K., Harris, L., Simms, R., Terbasket, T. "First in Time but not in Right: First Nations Water Rights in British Columbia." Planned submission to BC Studies.

Selected Presentations

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS

"First In Time, but Not First in Right: Decolonizing indigenous Water Governance in British Columbia, Canada" by Karen Bakker

"The Gendered Politics of our Water Relations" by Michelle Daigle

"Respecting water": Relationality and resisting the ontological violence of settler colonialism in water governance" by Nicole J. Wilson

"Community Based Monitoring and Traditional Ecological Knowledge: a snapshot from Canada" by Alice Cohen



More Highlights from Year 1 Deliverables

☒ Bush Camp 2016

[Watch Zack Embree's clip from last year's Bush Camp](#)

☒ Unceded Airwaves with Rosemary and Jess

[Check Decolonizing Water's website](#)
[September 2017](#)

☒ Unceded Airwaves 2 with Willow Thickson and Gordon Christie

[Check Decolonizing Water's website](#)
[September 2017](#)

☒ Rutger Boileons Decolonizing Water Paper

[Read the article](#)

☒ World Water Day Event

[Check Decolonizing Water's website](#)
[August 2017](#)

The RELAW team of lawyers taught a class early in the term on Indigenous law. Many of the 15 students were intrigued and expressed interest in doing a project that involved Indigenous law. West Coast has been doing work on the UN Declaration

on the Rights of Indigenous People and are monitoring the work of the Cabinet Working Group to Review Laws and Policies Related to Indigenous Peoples. Accordingly, we assigned these two topics:

1. Truth and Reconciliation – review BC Water Sustainability Act to determine compatibility with UNDRIP
2. Truth and Reconciliation – review Fisheries Act to determine compatibility with UNDRIP

Other Research Deliverables Planned for Summer 2017

UBC HQ is currently working with research assistants and students on summer research plans. Projects include:

- Completion and circulation of the Briefing Note and report on technologies in Community Based Water Monitoring.
- Reporting and Briefing notes on the UNDRIP and Duty to Consult
- Interviews with key leaders and innovators in Northern Community Based Water Monitoring
- Draft of the Reciprocal Learning Framework
- Student led briefing notes and essays.

Ongoing Research Activities

The working groups and UBC HQ will be conducting sets of interviews over the summer on the following topics:

- Indigenous Water Law across Canada
- Duty to Consult and UNDRIP
- Technologies in community based water monitoring
- Best-practice in land-based pedagogies
- Indigenous research methods in theory and practice.



Looking Ahead

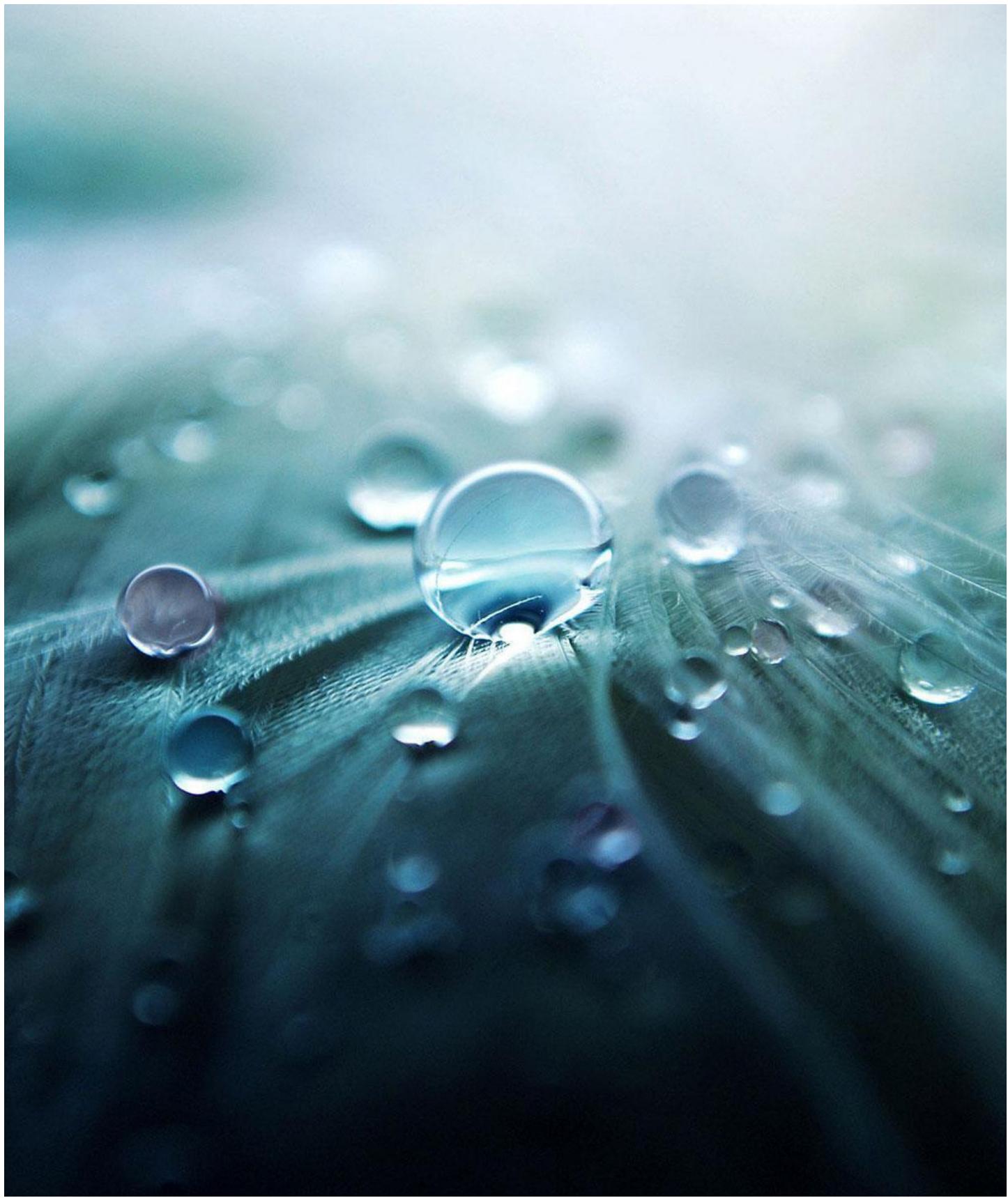
Keep your eyes open for invitations to participate in interviews from our growing team of Research Assistants!

Year 3 we will be engaging in communities- so if you have some suggestions, please bring them forward now.

Team Members in the News

- ☞ Gordon Christie in a CBC report – “Site C ruling shows Canadian courts don't take reconciliation seriously, says law professor”
[Read the article](#)
- ☞ West Coast Environmental Law featured in CBC article – “Vancouver law firm seeks legal grounding of unwritten Indigenous laws”
[Read the article](#)
- ☞ John Borrows wins national Killam Prize
[Read UVic article](#)
- ☞ Karen Bakker and her report on Site C is highlighted in the Globe and Mail article – “B.C. could save \$1.6-billion by cancelling Site C: UBC report”
[Read the article](#)
- ☞ Glen Coulthard is featured in an episode of A Dene Journey – “In My Homeland”
[Watch video](#)

Events



First Project Meeting

Decolonizing Water's first project meeting took place at Camp Fircom on Gambier Island from January 20th – January 22nd, 2017.

The purpose of the meeting was to have all members come together to discuss long term goals for the grant, the governance structure and research process. It was also an opportunity to hear the goals and work plans of each working group, as well as to provide collective feedback.

There were a total of 35 attendees at this meeting that included project partners, students, and UBC staff. We were honoured to be joined by Cease Wyss on the first day to welcome us to the unceded Coast Salish lands and waters of Gambier Island and for bringing us her tea. A special thank you to Daytona for supplying us with her beautiful art and beadwork with the leather cardholders!

November in Yellowknife

WITH KELSEY, GLEN, CALEB, KAREN, ERIN, STEVE, LARRY

On November 8th and 9th 2016, team members flew to Yellowknife to attend the GNWT Water Stewardship meeting in Dettah, NWT. They also took the opportunity to present the team's work during the November 8th Public Talk at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

American Association of Geographers 2017

Many of the Decolonizing Water members participated in the AAG where many papers were presented. See full list in publications presentations on page 12 of this newsletter.

UBC Lunchtime Lecture Series



Decolonizing Water teamed up with UBC CiTR's Unceded Airwaves to host two lunchtime lectures leading up to WorldWater Day on March 22nd.

The first one took place on March 10th with the filmmakers behind "We Have Stories: Women in Fish" Rosemary Georgeson & Jessica Hallenbeck who gave a lecture to over 80 participants. The second lecture was a discussion between Willow Thickson and Gordon Christie focused on the effects that resource extraction projects have on water in BC, which was aired live on Unceded Airwaves.



World Water Day 2017

In partnership with Emily Carr and the Downstream Project, Decolonizing Water hosted a roundtable discussion with Audrey Siegl, Carleen Thomas, Helen Knott & Caleb Behn for World Water Day on March 22nd called *Water Is Life Roundtable*.

After art making and a catered reception by Salishan Catering, the speakers explored questions such as:

- What happens if people put protection of water first and foremost as their priority?
- How would BC's planned fossil fuel expansion and hydro-dam expansion impact watershed health and Indigenous rights?
- What does reconciliation that honours water as life look like, and what kinds of actions can everyday people take to protect water?

Upcoming Events

A number of grant team members will be heading to Anishishinaabe Nibi Gathering for May 24-27, 2017 at the Manito Api Site – Wiigwam Teaching Lodge in Whiteshell Provincial Park. Student team members, including Courtney Crane, Josh Kioke and Quill Christie, will be recording interviews with Elders and community members.

Sharing Indigenous Water Law: Workshop and Panel on June 21st – Join us starting at 12:00pm for a full afternoon workshop on Indigenous Water Law. Team members and students will present in the early afternoon, followed by a closed workshop and light appetizers. Please check your inboxes for further information, and if you are interested in attending please RVSP at water.partners@ubc.ca.

NAISA Conference 2017: Vancouver, BC – Team members were successful in their panel application for the Decolonizing Water Project. The panel is tentatively scheduled for Thursday June 22, and we hope to see many team members there!

DECOLONIZING WATER

Chair: Gordon Christie, University of British Columbia

Comment: Caleb Behn, Eh-Cho Dene Territory in Treaty No.8

Dine Decolonization and the Biopolitics of Water

- Melanie Yazzie, University of California - Los Angeles

The Gendered Politics of our Water Relations

- Michelle Daigle, University of British Columbia

Fish Farms and Freeways: Dispossession from Water, Dispossession from Land

- Rosemary Georgesohn, Independent Artist
- Jessica Hallenbeck, University of British Columbia

KNOWLEDGE, SCIENCE, IDENTITY AND THE LAND: MAKING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE COUNT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING

Chair: Sibyl Diver, Stanford University

Lessons from the field: Striving for meaningful inclusion of Indigenous ecological knowledge in governance decisions

- Jonaki Bhattacharyya, The Firelight Group
- Susan Leech, The Firelight Group

Negotiating Indigenous Knowledge at the Science-Policy Interface: Insights from the Xaxil'p Community Forest

- Sibyl Diver, Stanford University

Traditional economic knowledge for environmental governance in Aotearoa/New Zealand

- Hekia Bodwitch, University of California-Berkeley

Protecting Cultural Identity in the Digital Environment

- Hauiti Hakopa, University of Otago

We will be sending a group to the Royal Geographical Society meeting in London UK, in August 2017. They have been invited to share their work at the plenary panel, titled "Decolonizing Geography in Theory and Practice: Critical Indigenous Perspectives" and panel titled Decolonizing Land/Water: Critical Settler and Indigenous Perspectives on land/water governance.



Team Members



New Members

We would like to welcome new team members!



SARAH HUNT

Sarah Hunt is an Assistant Professor in UBC's First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program and Department of Geography. Sarah's scholarship in Indigenous and legal geographies critically takes up questions of justice, gender, self-determination, and the spatiality of Indigenous law. As a Kwagiulth (Kwakwaka'wakw) scholar and activist, her work takes up the intimate, everyday expressions of Indigenous resurgence with her most recent projects centering coastal peoples embodied resistance to colonization. Sarah's scholarship builds on her more than 15 years of community-based research and collaboration, with a particular focus on issues facing Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people.



DEBORAH MCGREGOR

Dr. Deborah McGregor will be joining the Indigenous Research Methods team as an Associate Professor from York University's Osgoode Hall Law Faculty as a cross appointee from the Faculty of Environmental Studies. Professor McGregor's research has focused on Indigenous knowledge systems and their various applications in diverse contexts including water and environmental governance, environmental justice, forest policy and management, and sustainable development. Her research has been published in a variety of national and international journals and she has delivered numerous public and academic presentations relating to Indigenous knowledge systems, governance and sustainability.



HEIDI KIIWETINEPINÉSIIK STARK

Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik Stark is Turtle Mountain Ojibwe and a member of the lynx clan. She is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of

Victoria. Her research interests include Aboriginal and Treaty rights and Indigenous politics in the United States and Canada. She is the co-author of American Indian Politics and the American Political System (with David Wilkins) and the co-editor of Centering Anishinaabeg Studies: Understanding the World Through Stories (with Jill Doerfler and Niigaanwewidam Sinclair, 2013).

Students

We would like to welcome new students: Josh Barichello, Courtney Crane, Raven-Dominique Gobeil, Josh Kioke, Joanne Nelson, Rayanna Seymour, and Madeline Whetung to the project! They join the growing team of students who have been collaborating with the grant in a variety of capacities.

We have been working with an excellent team of students over the last year. We would like to say thank you to students who are graduating or refocusing on other projects. Robin Heavens worked with the team for the final project of her Master's in Engineering, and has produced a helpful report on community water monitoring technologies.

Sarah Zernitz has returned to Wageningen University in the Netherlands to complete her MA work. She hopes to share her research findings on the UNESCO delegation to Wood Buffalo National Park in the next few months.

Meet the Students



MALLORY AMIRALULT

Mallory Amirault is an outspoken Acadian Mi'kmaq performance artist, unrestrained by political and social structures. At her core, she is concerned with issues of marginalization, agency and Indigenous resurgence. Born in Nova Scotia, Amirault is currently a fourth year student in the field of Critical and Cultural Practices at Emily Carr University.



RACHEL ARSENAULT

Rachel is a Master's student at Laurentian University in the Masters of Indigenous Relations program. The draft title of her thesis is Recommendations

Towards Eliminating Boil Water Advisories in First Nation Communities in Ontario Using an Indigenous Oriented Approach. She currently works with the Indigenous Research Methods Working Group on Indigenous Water Governance in collaboration with the University of British Columbia and the Health Sciences North Research Institute. She has been a technician for the Ontario First Nations Young People's Council for the past two years and looks forward to advocating for another great cause in the year(s) to come: Indigenous rights to and governance of water.

"Working as a research assistant for the Indigenous Research Methodologies Working Group has been a truly incredible experience! I loved learning about the work that's been done in terms of Decolonizing Water and being a small part of current initiatives. I'm also really grateful to team that I have been working with for teaching me so much in a very short time. Miigwetch".



JOSH BARICELLO

Josh is non-Indigenous and he grew up in the territories of the Kaska, Shutaot'ine and Kwanlinn Dunn. He has passion for the Dene land that he was raised on.

He completed a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and he will soon be starting a Masters degree in Geography at UBC, under the guidance of Karen Bakker and Glen Coulthard. As a speaker of Kaska Dena, Josh is interested in exploring the role that Indigenous language resurgence plays in decolonizing land and water governance and education in colonial systems. He is coming to the unceded land of the Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwu7mesh, and Tsleil-Waututh people from the community of Tu ɬidlini (Ross River), where he has spent the last 6 years working with the Elders Council on various Indigenous knowledge projects and on developing and facilitating land-based

education programs. When he is done at UBC, he hopes to return home and continue taking part in decolonization movements of the north.



LINDSAY BORROWS

Lindsay is Anishinaabe and a member of the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation in Ontario. Her home reserve is located on Georgian Bay, and she grew up around people who love water. To develop her relationship with water she participates in water ceremonies, has worked on a birch-bark canoe building project, and regularly listens to her grandmother and great-aunt's teachings on water. She took a Water Law course during her law degree to understand Canadian legal conceptions of water. Lindsay is currently an articled student at West Coast Environmental Law and part of the Revitalizing Indigenous Laws for Land, Air and Water (RELAW) team. She is interested in law as an exercise of story-telling, and as a means to empower people to live a good life.



QUILL CHRISTIE

Quill Christie is an Anishinaabekwe arts programmer and self-taught artist currently residing in her hometown of Toronto. Her

passion involves creating artistic programming for Indigenous youth from a radically relational praxis that allows youth to reclaim relationships to self, homeland, ancestors and community. She currently works within the public programming and curatorial departments at the Art Gallery of Ontario where she is developing and facilitating programming for native youth. Quill is also a Masters Candidate in the Indigenous Governance Program and holds a Bachelor's degree in biology. She sits on the board of directors for Native Women in the Arts and will be running a collaborative arts-based program for Indigenous youth that centers on explorations of water governance in urban Toronto and wild riceing practices in Treaty 3. Quill is dedicated to the empowerment of Indigenous youth through artistic practice and her latest work will be featured in a forthcoming publication by Native Realities Press.



TEDDY EYSTER

Teddy is a Masters student in IRES studying ecohydrology and environmental restoration. After graduating with a BSE in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Princeton University, he worked as an environmental consultant with ENVIRON doing site assessments and groundwater remediation. He came to UBC from The UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences where he studied meadow hydrology and amphibians in the Sierra.

"As a hydrologist, I think it's important for physical scientists like myself to be involved in more social projects like Decolonizing Water. This project has encouraged me to focus on both the implications of the science I do and also how I do it, while recognizing the implications inherent in western methodologies of understanding. Additionally, I think scientists can provide important technical expertise and perspective to people more focused on human dynamics".



LISA GIRBAV

Lisa Girbav is a third year UBC undergraduate student majoring in First Nations and Indigenous Studies, and has a business diploma in radio broadcasting from BCIT. She aims to apply her UBC education to her career in broadcasting and communications for the purpose of serving First Nations communities and organizations. Lisa comes from a mixed heritage of Tsimshian on her mother's side and Norwegian and Romanian on her father's side. She grew up in the Tsimshian territory on the northwest coast in the city of Prince Rupert. Lisa acknowledges that she is currently an uninvited guest on the traditional, ancestral and unceded land of the Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwu7mesh, and Tsleil-Waututh people.

"Decolonizing Water is a hands on, land based experience that challenges me to put my UBC degree to use. I feel that my contributions are meaningful and appreciated by this phenomenal research team. This opportunity is valuable to

working with Indigenous communities like my own, now and in the future."



RAVEN-DOMINIQUE GOBEIL

Raven-Dominique Gobeil is an Anishinaabe-Metis woman living in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her mother was from Poplar River First Nation, located on original treaty 5 territory in Manitoba and her father was from rural south-eastern Manitoba with family roots in Quebec. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba with a major in native studies and a double minor in labour and family studies. Raven-Dominique attends Robson Hall, faculty of law at the University of Manitoba. She is a founding member of the Student Pipeline Action Committee and also serves as a coordinator on the Manitoba Indigenous Law Students Association, as well as the national first year representative on Canada's National Indigenous Law Students Association.



JOSH KIOKE

Josh Kioke is a student of mixed Indigenous and settler descent. Josh is Cree from the Attawapiskat First Nation in Treaty 9 territory.

He graduated from UBC's First Nations and Indigenous Studies program in 2014, and has returned to UBC to pursue a Master of Science degree in Environmental Studies. His intended area of research is the methodology and design of water monitoring programs in remote Indigenous communities.



MIKE FABRIS

Mike Fabris (Krebs) is currently pursuing his PhD in Geography at UBC. He also completed his Masters in Geography at UBC, and has a Bachelor of Arts from SFU. His PhD research focuses on the role of land-based practice in the formation of Indigenous identity in urban and rural reserve environments. An Indigenous student of Blackfoot and European descent, Mike lives with his son on the unceded

Skwxwu7mesh, Tsleil-Waututh, and Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm territories of Vancouver.



MELPATKWA MATTHEW

Melpatkwa Matthew is Secwepemc from the Simpcw Band. She is currently in her fourth year at UBC studying in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems in the Global Resource Systems Program. Melpatkwa is excited to be working on the Decolonizing Water Project. Being a Research Assistant enables them to challenge colonial ways of thinking and re-establish traditional knowledge and how it is applied to water systems. As the project progresses it is inspiring to witness how every element is being brought together that will decolonize water and empower Indigenous people with their water systems and rights.



JOANNE NELSON

Joanne Nelson is a Ts'msyen woman who grew up in the northwestern BC communities of Port Edward and Prince Rupert where she gained a tremendous appreciation for nature, in particular the ocean environment. She is from Lax Kw'alaams on her mother's side and Kitsumkalum on her father's side. Her passions include traditional Ts'msyen art forms as well as paddle sports such as dragon boat and outrigger canoe. She is an incoming PhD student with IRES and is looking forward to conducting meaningful research with First Nations communities that favour Indigenous Ways of Knowing and traditional knowledge. Joanne has been an uninvited guest on the unceded land of the Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwu7mesh, and Tsleil-Waututh people on and off for over 30 years.



RAYANNA SEYMOUR (HOURIE)

Rayanna Seymour (Hourie) is Anishinaabe from Naongashiing (Big Island), in Treaty #3 Territory. Her parents are Lorraine Seymour and Raymond Hourie and she has 7 siblings. She is entering her 3rd year of law school at Robson

Hall, University of Manitoba. She is an executive member of the Manitoba Indigenous Law Students' Association (MILSA) and works on Anishinaabe nibi Inaakonigewin (water law). Her goal is to continue on into graduate school to further study her own legal traditions and laws, Anishinaabe law. One of her favourite activities is dance. She grew up dancing in the pow-wow circle as a fancy shawl dancer, and then started dancing jingle in her teens. She also dances Zumba for fun and release some stresses from school. She is also a baseball player and a very recent soccer player.



COREY SNELGROVE

Corey Snelgrove is currently a PhD Student at the University of British Columbia studying political theory and Canadian politics. His dissertation aims to disaggregate treaty and reconciliation by (1) recovering a critique of the concept of reconciliation informed by political economy in modern and anti-colonial political thought, and (2) elucidating the materiality of treaty (as movement and interpretation) historically and into the present. His previous research examined the entanglement of environmentalism (as knowledge and activism) and colonization on Lekwungen homelands in Victoria, BC.



MADELINE WHETUNG

Madeline Whetung is undertaking a PhD in Geography at the University of British Columbia. Her MA research considered the overlapping Indigenous and Western legal contexts surrounding the Trent-Severn Waterway by paddling traditional harvesting routes in her home territory, Michisaagiig Nishnaabegaki. She is interested in land and water-based living, unsettling settler colonialism, and the relationship between body and land. Currently she is engaged in community work against gender-based violence in her home community of Nogojiwanong. Whetung is a citizen of the Nishnaabeg nation and a member of Curve Lake First Nation of Michisaagiig, Scottish, and English descent.



NICOLE J. WILSON

Nicole J. Wilson is a scholar of settler origin whose work examines Indigenous peoples' relationships to water and water governance in the context of colonialism, resource extraction and global environmental change, with an emphasis on Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of North America. She is presently a PhD Candidate at the University of British Columbia's Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability. Nicole is both a Vanier and Killam scholar. Her dissertation research focuses on First Nations and water governance in the context of modern land claim agreements in Yukon, Canada.



SARAH ZERNITZ

Sarah has a Bachelor in International Relations from Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, and is a Master student of International Land and Water Management at Wageningen University in the Netherlands. Growing up in this water abundant country sparked her interest and love for issues surrounding water. She is particularly interested in the political ecology of water and water justice. At this moment, she carries out her Master thesis research about the UNESCO mission to Wood Buffalo National Park.

UBC Team Members

The grant staff have been working on an assortment of projects including grant applications, organizing our first partner meeting on Gambier Island, working with the students based at UBC, coordinating meetings and coordinating ethics applications and fund transfers. UBC HQ was successful in applying for two additional grants during the 2016-2017 year to facilitate workshop meetings. As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Kelsey if you are interested in further grant application opportunities.



KAREN BAKKER — PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Dr. Karen Bakker is a non-Indigenous scholar who lives and works on the unceded territories of Coast and Straits Salish peoples. She is a Professor, Canada Research Chair, and Co-Director of the Program on Water Governance (www.watergovernance.ca) at the University of British Columbia. She is the author of over 100 publications on water security and water governance issues. More information and publications at www.karenbakker.org.



GLEN COULTHARD — CO-LEAD

Dr Glen Coulthard (PhD – University of Victoria) is a member of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and an associate professor in the First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program and the Department of Political Science. Glen has written and published numerous articles and chapters in the areas of Indigenous thought and politics, contemporary political theory, and radical social and political thought. He lives in Vancouver, Coast Salish Territories.



KELSEY WRIGHTSON — PROJECT

MANAGER

Kelsey is a non-Indigenous scholar from Treaty 6 territories, who has been living and working on the unceded territories of Coast and Straits Salish peoples for more than a decade. She received a PhD in Political Science from UBC in 2015. Her work looked at the role of museums and artists practice in supporting resurgent decolonization. She has been the research manager for the Decolonizing Water Project since April 2016.



SHELBY LESLIE — OUTREACH CAMP

COORDINATOR

Shelby grew up in Ontario where he spent many years canoeing its' rivers and lakes being a guide for youth leadership development programs. For the past 10 years, Shelby has worked as a first aid attendant, logistical coordinator and project manager, specializing in remote access industrial work sites across Canada. He now lives in Vancouver with his partner and their two young children.



MEGGAN JACOBSON — PROGRAM

COORDINATOR

After immigrating to Canada from South Africa when she was nine, Meggan grew up on the unceded territory of the Skwxwu7mesh, Tsleil-Waututh, and Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm in North Vancouver. She has a bachelor's degree in Human Geography with a minor in First Nations and Indigenous Studies from UBC. Meggan is passionate about environmental justice on a local and global scale and is excited to be working with the Decolonizing Water Project.





Grant Team

Co-Investigators & Collaborators

Dr. Karen Bakker (P.I.), Co-Director of Program on Water Governance, University of British Columbia

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Jill Baird, Curator, UBC Museum of Anthropology

Caleb Behn, J.D., Executive Director, Keepers of the Water

Dr. Rutgerd Boelens, Professor, Wageningen University

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Dr. John Borrows, J.D., Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria

Dr. Carrie Bourassa, Chair in Northern & Indigenous Health Senior Scientist, Health Sciences North Research Institute

Dr. Peter Brown, Professor of Geography, McGill University

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Dr. Rita Wong, Associate Professor in Critical and Cultural Studies, Emily Carr University

Partner Organizations

This project is possible due to generous support from our partners:

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Brinkman Forest Ltd., Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning, Environmental Bio-Detection Products Inc., Hallenbeck Consultants, IndigenEYEZ, Keepers of the Water, New Energy Media, Olthuis, Kleer, Townshend (OKT), LLP, UBC (MOA), Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, Tides Canada Foundation, Violet Inch Records, West Coast Environmental Law



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