

# **Water Futures: Historical Perspectives from Indigenous Ecological Knowledge**

**TSRG, University of Hull, “Water Futures” Travel Award 2024**

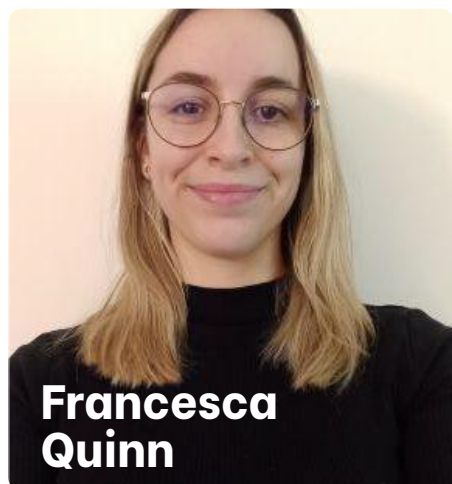
British Academy Global Professorship Summative Event: “Water Futures: Historical Perspectives from Indigenous Ecological Knowledge”, 12 July 2024, Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford.

Congratulations to the following who were all successful in winning the Treated Spaces Research Group, University of Hull, “Water Futures” Travel Award 2024 to attend the “Water Futures: Historical Perspectives from Indigenous Ecological Knowledge”.

Funding is generously provided by the British Academy as part of the British Academy Global Professorship ‘Native Ecologies: A Deep History of Climate Change’.



Sam Hawksford White is a second-year PhD student at the University of Hull’s Centre for Water Cultures as part of a Leverhulme Trust funded partnership. His research lies at the intersection of environmental history and the history of photography, with a particular concentration on media representations of natural hazards and ecological change. In his dissertation, he reflects on the networks, practitioners and technologies that played witness to flooding, drought and soil erosion in the United States during the New Deal period.



Francesca Quinn is a Ph.D. student in the Department of English and Related Literature at the University of York. Her research takes an intersectional ecocritical approach to the relationship between land and body as shown in Native North American poetry, with a specific interest in healing practices and activism through the environment. Francesca is also co-director of the New Voices in Postcolonial Studies research network for the 2023-2024 academic year.



**Ginevra  
Bianchini**

Ginevra Bianchini is a third-year PhD student in the School of English at Trinity College Dublin, under the supervision of Dr Melanie Otto. Her project, titled "Naked Flesh: On the Intersectional and Interdisciplinary Representation of Sexual Violence in the United Kingdom and North America," scrutinizes how gender and race intertwine in narratives that portray sexual violence through different disciplines: literature, TV series, and the visual arts. The analysis engages with three contemporary case studies from female-identifying authors of colour: Kara Walker's silent film *Testimony: Narrative of a Negress Burdened by Good Intentions* (2004, US), Katherena Vermette's novel *The Break* (2016, Canada), and Michaela Coel's TV series *I May Destroy You* (2020, UK). The research is rooted in Kimberlé Crenshaw's concept of intersectionality (1989), an analytical approach that considers how encounters between certain social and political identities can produce discrimination or privilege. These narratives' innovative element lies in their focus on healing from trauma, rather than dwelling on the trauma narrative or on a quest for reckoning. The texts relate to each other in the emphasis put on healing and resolution, highlighting different possible paths for recovery deeply rooted in their cultures of origin. These provide more self-reaffirming ways to regain sovereignty over the body, tightly linked to their non-mainstream ethnic identities: African American (Walker), Indigenous Canadian (Vermette), and British African (Coel). The thesis' analytical focus emphasises the element of healing from the trauma of sexual violence, an essential aspect normally elided from previous academic criticism or not featured enough in earlier primary sources from these geographical areas. Although sexual violence has been previously portrayed in these media and cultural spheres, this project focuses on present-day works to emphasise how this issue still exists in our contemporaneity.



**Xin Ying Lim**

Xin Ying Lim is a PhD English researcher at the University of Hull whose doctoral research is funded by the Leverhulme Centre of Water Cultures within its *Imagining Water Strand*. Xin's focus is water ownership, racialized emotional expression, Indigenous American history in the post-contact era, early modern literature, and the history of emotion. Xin's interdisciplinary PhD research centres on settler-Indigenous relations in early modern Virginia from 1607 to 1700. Her research focuses on reconstructing the Powhatan emotional landscape in the post-contact period and the depiction of the affective political relationship between the Powhatan and the English in early modern English literature.





Scarlett-Electra LeBlanc is a Leverhulme Trust Doctoral Scholar based at the Centre for Water Cultures at the University of Hull. Her interdisciplinary project explores the literary and cultural legacies of Holy Wells and Springs from the nineteenth century to the modern day in England, Scotland, and Wales. Her PhD examines fictional and non-fictional encounters with wells as depicted by a variety of sources, from Victorian anthologies of well folklore to contemporary fiction's use of wells to engage with themes of water scarcity. Scarlett-Electra's research also engages with the historical importance of wells as sites of healing, as well as considering the contemporary questions raised by these landscapes, as places of both environmental and spiritual importance.

A partial funded place was awarded to the following attendee:



Laila Kasuri is a Postgraduate Researcher at the Centre for Environmental Policy at Imperial College London looking at increasing participation and inclusion of Indigenous peoples and their values in global water governance processes and discourses. Her research deals with issues of water justice, equity, water rights and ontological pluralism especially as it pertains to Indigenous peoples. Prior to joining Imperial, Ms. Kasuri had been working for the last twelve years on the breadth of global water issues, with organizations such as the World Bank and the Global Green Growth Institute, in multiple countries including Canada, the United States, Pakistan, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Jordan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso and the four countries of the Lake Chad (Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria). In her most recent role, she worked as a Senior Advisor with the Assembly of First Nations in Canada working on issues around Indigenous water stewardship, federal regulations and policies related to climate and biodiversity, environmental regulations (CEPA), federal safe drinking water and freshwater issues and the linkages of these issues with UN human rights declarations. She graduated with a Bachelors (Hons.) in environmental sciences and engineering (ESE) from Harvard University with a minor in East Asian Studies, and a Masters Degree from University of California, Davis in Environmental Engineering.