

Sydney Environment Institute



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

SEI Statement of Activities
2020



The Sydney Environment Institute is located on the Gadigal Lands of the Eora Nation.

We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded, and we pay our deepest respects to the Traditional Owners of this land and to Elders past, present and future, here in Eora and beyond.



Director's Note

2020 was a terrible year. We started literally under a cloud – or, more specifically, the thick smoke of the Black Summer bushfires. Red skies, ash, fires seemingly everywhere. Even those away from the danger of the flames, here in Sydney, were breathing that smoke, inhaling the billions of dead creatures and their broader environments. In the midst of it all, struggling to breath, it felt like the world had changed.

And then the world changed again. Another shock – another event that the world should have been prepared for, another event where governance failed and expertise was denied and dismissed.

In response to the virus, the author Arundhati Roy wrote, “The tragedy is immediate, real, epic and unfolding before our eyes. But it isn’t new. It is the wreckage of a train that has been careening down the track for years.” Of course, we can say the same about climate change and the tragedy of bushfires – along with storms, flooding, heatwaves and more that continue to unfold.

At SEI, we are used to working on tragedy, on this careening. In the wake of the bushfires and virus, staff and researchers came together to address a range of intersecting topics and converging crises. The resultant series of reflections on Corona and Climate addressed issues of inequality, of the governance of crises, of respiratory health and mental health, of the nature of disruption and radical change – and more. From

lockdown, key research projects at the SEI continued. Teams adjusted, Zoomed, moved events online, continued to engage and produce research with global impact.

In the midst of all of this, SEI went through its first official external review. We were quite proud to have it confirmed that SEI ‘offers a compelling point of contact for those who value an engagement with the university...’, is ‘highly effective as an agent of transformation and communication’, and ‘is a model of impactful productivity and engagement’. As one of our international partners told the panel, ‘SEI is doing something extraordinary and unique globally...’ This confirmation of our mission and approach was crucial in a year that we understood that converging crises, complete with social and ecological turbulence, are our present and future.

At SEI, we will continue to examine and address the systematic dysfunctional relationships between human and nonhuman systems and processes, and to explore the interests and systems that actively and purposefully undermine those relationships. Our research, from global climate to the food we eat every day, illustrates that it is possible rebuild this devastated world. We must do that together, across disciplines and fields, across interests, and across the usual divides of academia and the communities we serve.

— David Schlosberg, Director and Co-Founder



Photo: Dhaalu Atoll, Maldives, via Unsplash

Our Vision and Objectives

Purpose

SEI's purpose is to extend and amplify the scope of the engagement on environmental issues; and to bring together expertise from across disciplines to address key problems in favour of the public good.

Vision

Our vision is of a University community reaching both inward across disciplines and outward into the larger world to collaboratively design and implement strategies for just and sustainable environmental transformation. Recognising the breadth of the harms unfolding, our work aims to both effect and affect the personal and cultural, the social and political, the ecological and economic. We seek to be part of the wider community of people and organisations creating the conditions under which all life can flourish.

— **Identify matters of critical environmental concern, and engage them** – through creative, collaborative projects designed for real impact.

— **Cross disciplinary boundaries** – to ask new questions, develop new methods, and generate new forms of knowledge and awareness among the arts, the humanities, and the natural, social, and technological sciences.

— **Build flourishing working communities** – among academics, policymakers, cultural institutions, practicing artists, students, NGOs, and committed citizens.

— **Support and mentor** – ambitious, imaginative, collaborative endeavours by students, scholars, and practitioners, within the university and beyond.

— **Communicate our work, and invite conversations** – with the publics we serve in Sydney, across Australia, throughout the Indo-Pacific, and across the globe.

— **Impact and affect communities, culture, and policy** – with our direct work with partners in community organisations, cultural institutions, and government.



Research Themes

— Adaptation

Anticipating the future by reflecting on today

— Eco poetics

Exploring and disrupting the interrelations between languages, lives and worlds through voice, story, image, history and imagination.

— Food Systems

Understanding and developing sustainable access to food

— Justice

Addressing imbalances in the experience of environmental damage

— Nature In Culture

Applying the wisdom of First Nations politics and philosophies to environmental justice and the climate crisis

— Transition

With the publics we serve in Sydney, across Australia, throughout the Indo-Pacific, and across the globe.

— Sustainability

Creating systems for sustainable living

Leadership and Professional Staff



David Schlosberg
Co-Founder and Director



Michelle St Anne
Co-Founder, Deputy Director
and Operations Manager



Christine Dundas
Project and Communications Officer



Eloise Fetterplace
Project and Communications
Officer (Parental leave in 2020)



Liberty Lawson
Content Editor and Knowledge
Translation Officer



Charlotte Owens
Executive Assistant and Project
Officer



Thanh Whittam
Accounts and Administration
Assistant



Genevieve Wright
Events and Content Creator

Multi- or Interdisciplinary Research Project Generation and Major Program Leadership

In 2020 the SEI adapted to an online world, transitioning our events programming into new digital formats that highlighted the resilience of our multidisciplinary research community.

2020 was a difficult year for the generation of new projects given the Covid-19 crisis and the temporary loss of our main methodology – getting people together for collaborative, generative discussions. Still, SEI expanded our programming in a number of ways.

Our **Confronting Crises** series allowed a number of members and affiliates to address issues at the intersection of Covid and Environment. These articles, curated by our communications and editing staff, were quite popular over the course of the year, and have been brought together in the fifth issue of the SEI Magazine.

The **Unsettling Resources** group elevated Prof Susan Park to a lead this large-scale multidisciplinary project on a range of resource issues. The project has been mentoring two ECR scholars in Law. The major new project/output during the lockdown was an official submission to the NSW government on gas development in Narrabri.

The **Sites of Violence** project, led by Deputy Director Michelle St Anne, expanded in numerous areas during the Covid lockdown. St Anne established a set of Imagination Hole seminars as a place of sharing research and in utero thinking. Based on artistic methodologies, the purpose of these is to encourage multidisciplinary thinking across disciplines. The breadth of the Sites of Violence project led to the generation of three 'satellite' projects: Willful Ignorance, on the making invisible of obvious violence; Methodology and Aesthetics, exploring the intersection of artistic forms and the understandings and representations of violence, and the development of a major artistic work 'the foul of the air'.

The **Environmental and Climate Justice** group developed, revised, or initiated three new research projects in 2020. 'Climate Justice and Problems of Scale', with Thom Van Dooren, Christine Winter, and David Schlosberg, is a collaboration with the international Consortium of Humanities Centres and Institutes – a Mellon Foundation-funded Global Humanities Institute on climate justice. Covid has necessitated a shift from the original plan for a major event in South Africa and Sydney, and we will focus in 2021 on local HDR and ECR training on climate justice. 'Making Environmental Policy More Just', led by David Schlosberg, is a new ARC DP funded project that began in 2020, starting the first stage – an analysis of the range of meanings of environmental justice globally, as well as conceptions of barriers and enablers of EJ in policy. And our 'Grounded Imaginaries' project, developed by Danielle Celermajer with David Schlosberg and colleagues in India to highlight actual implementations of just community resilience and adaptation, was proposed and short-listed in 2020 (and eventually funded at the start of 2021).

Research Highlights

The Iain McCalman Lecture

Swinging the Pendulum Towards the Politics of Production: Animal-Based Food and Environmental Justice — Presented by Dr Dinesh Wadiwel, February 2020

The Iain McCalman Lecture, created by Michelle St Anne, celebrates SEI co-founder and former co-director Iain McCalman's generous and compassionate spirit, and his dedication to fostering and pioneering multidisciplinary environmental research. The lectures aim to highlight the work of early to mid-career researchers working across disciplinary boundaries to impact both scholarship and public discourse.

Dinesh Wadiwel

Dr Wadiwel, from the Department of Sociology and Social Policy here at the University of Sydney, is a lecturer in human rights and socio-legal studies and Director of the Master of Human Rights. With a background in social and political theory, he has had over fifteen years experience working within civil society organisations, including in anti-poverty and disability rights roles.

Dr Wadiwel is a research affiliate of the Sydney Environment Institute and a researcher on the SEI/FASS Multi-species Justice Initiative. He is currently writing a book exploring the relationship between animals and capitalism, building on his 2015 monograph, *The War Against Animals*.

In his lecture, Dr Wadiwel explores the impact of animal agriculture on climate, planetary health and justice, and the issues with focussing on individualised responsibility, rather than structural and institutional reform.

"This talk seeks to swing the pendulum from the politics of consumption towards the politics of production. A key focus will be seeking to understand the global "metabolism" of the historically unprecedented expansion of animal-based foods under capitalism. The industrialisation of production within the context of capitalist economies has led to the mass production of animal foods as a source of profit, producing deep environmental impacts, and simultaneously exposing trillions of animals annually to the violence of intensified farming and fishing. This talk will highlight that thinking about production, rather than consumption, allows us to explore the way the economies and institutions might be enlisted to create a "just transition" away from industrial animal agriculture."

"My main focus remains on the violence associated with industrial animal agriculture, and not just for animals, but for humans too."

— Dinesh Wadiwel



Image by Kaleb Koetsch via Shutterstock. ID: 690143179

FoodLab Sydney

FoodLab Sydney is a growing network of good food entrepreneurs, small business leaders, local government and community organisations working to make the City of Sydney an inclusive, diverse and vibrant place to live and eat. With 2020 being our second year of operations, FoodLab Sydney is running an early-stage entrepreneurship start-up program offering our participants the tools for change – kitchen qualifications, entrepreneurship skills, mentorship opportunities and a myriad of post-program support pathways – to either start their own good food enterprise or be a leader within one.

The FoodLab Sydney team welcomed 2020 with the third iteration of our food start-up program and eight new participants, each born in a different country with different culinary backgrounds, experiences and food business ideas to bring to the table.

Another fundamental pillar of FoodLab Sydney is the desire to engage with a community of people working to make the city of Sydney a better place to live and eat. Here, FoodLab Sydney connects and collaborates with a growing network of good food entrepreneurs, other businesses and organisations who share our values and who want to support a more vibrant, local food economy in the city.

"Our program is focused on building a sustainable food future by embracing students from all walks of life and food business ideas; promoting inclusivity with a focus on supporting people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who know how to speak the universal language of food."

— Jamie Loveday

External Engagement and Partnership

SEI members and our Director David Schlosberg were a major part of the development of the [University Sustainability Strategy](#), launched in 2020.

David Schlosberg is on the Steering Committee for the NSW DPIE/NSW Health-funded [Research Node on the Human Health and Social Impacts of Climate Change](#). One of the projects, on the mental health impacts of climate change on rural communities in NSW, included (virtual) public engagement events in Orange, Broken Hill, and Lismore.

The Climate Impacts/Adaptation/Resilience cluster began planning with partners at Western Sydney University and Future Earth Australia for an 'Imagining Climate Adaptation Summit' for 2021; this began in 2020 with a series of online consultations with adaptation experts and a report on the stated desires of the Australian adaptation community going forward. Director participated on a community panel on climate adaptation for Mosman Council, along with NSW Minister for the Environment Matt Kean and MP Zali Stegall.

[FoodLab Sydney](#), a partnership between SEI, City of Sydney, and TAFE NSW moved entirely online for 2020, and in doing so greatly expanded partnerships and engagement

with food entrepreneurs, food businesses, and others with a desire to create and build a good food ecosystem in Sydney. FoodLab Sydney has engaged 69 guest speakers, and 53 members of the local food system to mentor students during and after the program. Overall, more than 225 members of the community have become a part of the larger FoodLab Sydney-inspired good food community. This includes social enterprises, businesses, mentors and guest speakers.

The [Unsettling Resources](#) collective were involved in reviewing and critiquing Greenpeace AP's landmark report on the impact of climate change on Pacific Island Countries. The report was launched with an online event featuring panellists from Samoa, Fiji and SEI's Susan Park. SEI partnered Greenpeace AP and RMIT and experts from the commercial energy industry to author a submission in response to inadequacies within the NSW Government Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Assessment Report recommending approval of the proposed Santos Narrabri Gas Project. The submission resulted in a number of articles in leading publications (SMH, The Conversation) on the viability of the Narrabri gas project.

The Re-(E)mergence of Nature In Culture

Lead by Dr Christine Winter, this series of podcasts and articles brings together leading Indigenous scholars across a range of disciplines to explore Indigenous thinking and practice in facing environmental loss.

In 2017, the Sydney Environment Institute hosted a highly successful workshop, The Emergence of Nature in Culture, examining the intersections of nature and culture in Indigenous cosmology, philosophy, culture and literature. Lead by Dr Christine Winter, we revisited these themes in July 2019 with The Re-(E)mergence of Nature in Culture II, an expanded two-day workshop held as part of our NAIDOC Week celebrations.

This event brought together scholars of Indigenous studies, political science, psychology, literature, architecture, engineering, media, science, philosophy, medicine and animal studies, as well as activists and community leaders engaged in Indigenous and environmental justice into dialogue to gain a cross-disciplinary understanding of cultural and natural loss.

2020: Multimedia Series

In 2020, year we were thrilled to continue supporting and disseminating this research with a multimedia podcast and article series. Over ten weeks, through a series of interlinked podcast episodes and articles, we bring Indigenous scholars from Australia and around the world into conversations about how Indigenous Peoples are bringing agency, strength, adaptability and determination to meet the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation.

By exploring the multitude of ways in which Indigenous philosophies and practices recognise the inextricable and complex links between culture and nature, we ask how this knowledge can be used to challenge large scale environmental degradation and mounting environmental crises.

The series of 8 podcast episodes and articles, curated by Michelle St Anne and Christine Winter, features scholars including Virginia Marshall, Jakelin Troy, Jess Pasisi, Genevieve Campbell, Sophie Chao, June Rubis and Mitchell Gibbs.





Sustainability Strategy

Celebrating the launch of The University of Sydney's ambitious new Sustainability Strategy.

— Enriching lives through sustainability research and education

— Enabling resilient places on campus, a culture of sustainability and a responsible footprint

— Empowering good and transparent governance and coordination

Caring for Country

No matter where we are in Australia, we are on Country. We must appreciate the complexity of the natural environment as it shifts and emerges over time and minimise negative human impact on it.

Climate action

The University recognises that one of the greatest global challenges is climate change and its effects. As part of our contribution to sustainability, we are making a specific commitment to action on climate change: Net zero emissions by 2050.

Sustainable investment

Our actions focus on engagement, investment and divestment, taking an integrated approach to environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors in our investments, including climate change, diversity, modern slavery and Indigenous rights to align our portfolio with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The Living Lab

Our campus is the perfect playground for our sustainability experts to experiment with new designs and new ideas across faculties.

Sustainability Roundtables

What sustainability goals are most valuable to our community? Workshops, roundtable discussions and community-lead ideas have been key in designing and implementing a strategy that works for all of us.

The Living Lab Series

SEI has published a series of articles profiling the work of sustainability champions around campus - from researchers, professional staff, and students.

International recognition

The University of Sydney has been placed first in Australia and second in the world in the new Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), illustrating the importance and reputation of the work being done on a wide range of sustainability issues and impacts across the University.

"Students and staff are giving their time and energy, having the hard conversations, interpreting the data, offering insights, and working together to create not just a better university, but a better world."

— Lisa Heinze, Sustainability Strategy Project Lead

Multispecies Justice

Exploring the concepts and practices of Multispecies Justice

In 2020, in the wake of the bushfires in Australia and ongoing climate related catastrophes around the globe, and now in the face of the ravages being brought by COVID-19, the world looks very different to the way it did, even a year ago. Radically altered times demand radically altered ways of thinking and living. If they are to fulfil their role of supporting decent and flourishing lives, our core concepts and basic institutions need to become responsive to the realities of the moment. It is the task of universities to join with others – artists, activists, policy makers – to catalyse these transformations and help imagine how we bring them into our institutional worlds and daily lives. In a world where the Anthropocene is heightening injustices and introducing new forms of injustice, justice is one of the concepts and an area of practice crying out for wholesale renovation.

Historically, justice has most commonly been thought of the preserve of humans, and critical scholarship and advocacy principally have sought to ensure that all humans were subjects of justice. More recently, the grave harms inflicted on non-human animals and the environment have come to be understood as injustices, demanding that we ask, ‘what would justice across the human-more-than-human world look like and entail?’ To date, scholars of human rights, animal ethics and environmental studies have worked to conceptualise justice, analyse the production of injustice, and reimagine institutions with a view to their respective subjects of concern (humans, animals, environment). The impacts

of the most pressing problems of our era, however – climate change, indigenous rights, resource depletion, and industrial farming for example – cross the boundaries of these fields and subject categories.

This project is the first of its kind explicitly dedicated to multispecies justice. Over the last 18-months, the Multispecies Justice project has challenged scholars to reconceptualise justice in a way that is sufficiently capacious and fluid to accommodate the vast breadth of our multispecies world. This requires our imagining and including modes of representation and other political practices equipped to appreciate and accommodate the justice claims of all ecological beings – individuals, systems, and their relations.

Through collaboration, shared imagining and interdisciplinary, multispecies conversations, the Multispecies Justice collective has worked to produce scholarship that penetrates and transforms the three areas of research (human rights, environmental studies, human-animal studies) and scholarship in various disciplines, at the same time as defining a new field.

Looking forwards, with interdisciplinary, multi-institutional and more-than-human co-operation at the core of this projects design, the Multispecies Justice collective, alongside collaborating academics, artists, activists and practitioners aim to bring desperately needed insights, perspectives and practical ideas to a world where all species and multispecies relations are beset by grave injustices.



Image by Miguel Henriques, via Unsplash

Interdisciplinarity in a More Than Human World

These two virtual workshops held in August brought together four pairs of scholars to share their experiences putting interdisciplinarity into practice in studying the more-than-human world.

The challenges that the more-than-human world is facing clearly exceed the reach of any one discipline. Researchers working across the natural and social sciences and the humanities on the major social and environmental challenges of our time are increasingly realising that if our work is to make the type of contribution we wish to make to understanding and addressing these challenges, it needs to be inter-disciplinary. But how does interdisciplinarity actually work out in practice? What is interdisciplinarity's life cycle? What opportunities and challenges does interdisciplinarity entail? How do scholars working across different disciplines come together to shape the design of research questions, research methodologies, the writing up and dissemination of findings, and applied outcomes in the real world?



Postdoctoral Fellow Killian Quigley

Celebrating the Institute's first postdoctoral fellow, Dr Killian Quigley.

Research Project: Unsettling Ecopoetics

Ecological poetics. Ecopoetics. Ecopoiesis. These and other words give terminological form to a growing impulse among those who labour with language and literature: to articulate, reckon with, and remake relations among the world's human and more-than-human communities. Words, images, sounds, and stories—and the voices, histories, and desires they hear and ignore—are implicated in the shaping, as well as the undoing, of worlds. An ethical ecological poetics, then, imagines, composes, and speaks through a spirit of responsibility for the places, relations, and beings it draws near.

Unsettling Ecological Poetics, a collaboration between the Sydney Environment Institute and the Visiting Indigenous Writers Program, situates these challenges in and from Australia. A pivotal symposium, at the University of Sydney, gathered a cosmopolitan and multidisciplinary array of scholars and practitioners to ask how Australian perspectives intersect with, and diverge from, ecopoetics on a planetary scale. A coincident, warmly received salon performed this and other inquiries for a broader public.

The Inaugural Postdoctoral Fellowship Lecture: An Encrusting Ocean

In 2020, The Sydney Environment Institute introduced its new Postdoctoral Fellowship Lecture as a celebration of the contributions and careers of our Postdoctoral Research Fellows during their time with us. The inaugural lecture recognises the inquisitive and critical research of Killian Quigley, whose fellowship at the Institute will leave a remarkable legacy. Through his scholarship and his collegiality, Killian has become an internationally-recognised figure in the oceanic humanities, with his research spanning literary history to aesthetic theory and delving deep into the environmental humanities.

Under the surface of the sea, encrusting marine life-forms take shape among and upon diverse substrates, "artificial" as well as "natural" — shipwrecks clad in sponges, oil platforms adorned with cup corals, aquaculture cages "fouled" by hydrozoans. Unlike the depth and stability evoked by soily rootedness on land, encrustation frequently connotes the superficial, the ornamental, the accidental, and the even the invasive.

This talk, which draws primarily on the discourses of Western science, aesthetics, and environmental humanities, asks how these encrusting lives challenge received impressions of place, relation, motility, and even life.



"The problem with celebrating Killian's achievements as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at SEI from mid-2017 until now is that he has done so much. We in the SEI pride ourselves in our capacity to cross disciplines, but Killian has taken this to enviable new levels in his work."

— Iain McCalman and David Schlosberg

Killian Quigley

Killian Quigley is Research Fellow at ACU's Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, in Melbourne. He earned his PhD in English at Vanderbilt, where he specialized in the relationship between natural history and the aesthetics of spectacle in eighteenth-century Britain and France. He was subsequently awarded a postdoc at the Sydney Environment Institute, University of Sydney. His primary works reside at the intersections of the environmental humanities, literary studies, the history and philosophy of science, and aesthetic theory.

His first book manuscript, *The Vast Unseen Mansions of the Deep: Submerged Poetics, 1600-1820*, examines the figures of sea-going and submersion in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century English poetry in relation to histories of salvage and submarine science. Another ongoing project, *Waves and Places*, works between narratology and geographic theory to explore literatures of sea-level rise, with a special focus on the status of oceanic—and more broadly liquid—place. Killian's third primary research enterprise addresses shipwrecks and other sea-bottom stuff, asking how the histories drowned things tell are inflected by multispecies encrustations and other growths.

Impact and Reputation Cultivation

While COVID-19 had a major impact on our regular operations, including the nature of our event and research outputs, we were able to adapt our communication and content strategies so that we continued to raise the profile and reputation of our research.

Events:

— 15 events, 1350 attendees

— Breakdown: 5 keynotes (including McCalmán Lecture, Michael Mann), 3 workshops (on heat and MSJ) and 7 panel discussions (including launch of Greenpeace Aus's landmark Pacific report)

Communications activities and tracking

— We had upwards of 180,000 visitors to the SEI site.

— We launched the Corona and Climate series, a collection of articles authored by ECRs through to senior academics and industry leaders, responding to and addressing the intersections between the unfolding epidemiological crisis and climate change. Series received over 6000 views the course of the year.

— Hundreds of views to a number of co-authored expert reports and submission including the submission to the Independent Planning Commission on the proposed Narrabri Gas Project and a report on the closure of Ranger Uranium mine, prepared in collaboration with the Australian Conservation Foundation, Environment Centre NT, Mineral and Policy Institute.

— 4100 followers on Twitter with an average of over

83,000 impressions each month, resulting in an average of 343 link clicks p/m through to SEI events, articles, reports and other relevant content.

— We identified Instagram a key platform for targeting new and relevant demographics (including students and non-academic stakeholders) and we grew this platform by almost 600 followers.

— Subscribers to our newsletter grew to 6300, an increase of over 1000 subscribers from the previous year.

— We continued to focus on the generation and promotion of multimedia content – primarily videos and audio recordings. We launched two “hybrid” series in 2020 – the Nature in Culture Series and the Interweaving Voice Series – both which highlighted indigenous narratives and voices, using a combination of written and audio-visual content. Overall, we received over 21,000 views of our videos on YouTube and over 4500 ‘plays’ on Soundcloud.

— We also had continued success with media engagement in 2020 – our researchers featured across local and national outlets including Triple J's Hack, ABC News and The Sydney Morning Herald, lending their expertise to topics ranging from the contentious Narrabri gas project, the Bushfire Royal Commission and the closure of the Ranger uranium mine.

Engagement

One key engagement strategy will be to bring key external partners into our advisory structure. Beyond that, multiple research projects have engagement components (Unsettling Resources, Food Systems, Climate Impacts/Adaptation, for example), and those will continue and expand. But as recommended by the 3 year review, in the next 18 months we will have a particular focus on engagement with the arts community. Our Deputy Director, Michelle St Anne, is leading a dedicated and expanded effort to engage additional musicians, artists, performers, writers, architects, and designers with SEI, with the main goal of using aesthetics to produce affect in order to effect public thinking about environment. This includes:

— beginning 2021 working in collaboration with the world-renowned environmental artist Janet Lawrence, co-curating a set of artists, performers, musicians, poets, and scholarly talks in a week-long series of events for the Sydney Festival, a ‘Requiem’ for the anniversary of the Black Summer bushfires

— working in partnership with the British ‘Feral Architecture’ group for an exhibit at Tin Sheds Gallery of historical and contemporary architectural designs for living ‘with’ the immediate environment

— contributing to a major international exhibition, Forecast, curated by the UK-based Invisible Dust, who are dedicated to bridging arts, social thought, and contemporary environmental science

— contributing to the Sydney March Dance with the ‘Sites of Violence’ research group, led by Michelle St Anne

— establishing a research cohort of SEI scholars and artists in collaboration with the Conservatorium and Film History

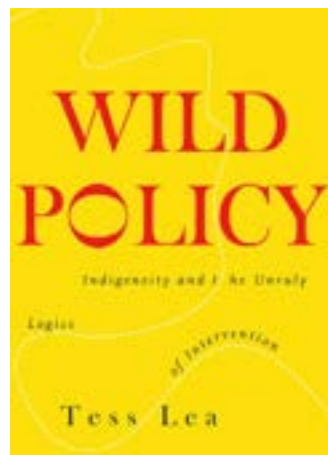
— engaging on environment and the arts with/ Power Institute and China Studies

— supporting a film festival with Susan Potter

— supporting additional projects, including Liza Lim – Extinction and Dawn Chorus and Genevieve Campbell – Songs of Tiwi Islands: cultural survival

Select publications

Booklaunches



Wild Policy
Indigeneity and the
Unruly Logics of
Intervention

—
Tess Lea
[Stanford University Press](#)



Sustaining Seas:
Oceanic Space and
the Politics of Care —

Edited by Elspeth Probyn, Kate
Johnston and Nancy Less

[Rowman & Littlefield](#)

Environmental and Social Impact Reports



Closing Ranger,
Protecting Kakadu

Published 16 December 2020

Authors

Mia Pepper, Mineral Policy
Institute, Rebecca Lawrence,
Sydney Environment Institute,
Dave Sweeney, Australian
Conservation Foundation,
Associate Professor Gavin Mudd,
RMIT, Kirsty Howey, Environment
Centre NT, and Justin Tutty, ENCT.



**Submission to the
NSW Department of
Planning Industry
and Environment
concerning the Draft
2020 Social Impact
Assessment Guideline**

Published 03 December 2020

Author

Rebecca Lawrence, Research
Affiliate, Sydney
Environment Institute

The 2020 SEI Magazine Confronting Crisis: Corona and Climate

Throughout 2020, we curated a series of opinion pieces from the Institute's community that explore the intersections between ecological and epidemiological crises and the fight for a different future.

The Corona and Climate article series, collected in Issue 5 of the SEI magazine, explores the consequences of crises for finance and industry, welfare, multispecies justice, environmental policy, immigration, institutionalised racism, public infrastructure and urban design, mental health and more. The world will not, and should not, return to normal. By diving into the uncomfortable questions and opening new doors for unlikely collaborations, above all we hope to open up a space where we can come together to imagine and fight for a better future.

Confronting Crises: Introducing the Corona and Climate Series — Liberty Lawson, Content Editor, Sydney Environment Institute

Virus Time — Killian Quigley, Postdoctoral Fellow, Sydney Environment Institute

COVID-19 Kills, but Inequality Does Too — Dr. Rebecca Lawrence, Senior Research Fellow, and Dr. Alison Ziller, Research Affiliate, Sydney Environment Institute

The Pandemic Has Changed Everything and Nothing — David Ritter, Chief Executive Officer of Greenpeace Australia Pacific

Governing Global Health Versus Climate Health — Charlotte Owens, Master of International Security, The University of Sydney

Climate Change and Civil Unrest: Insights from Syria and COVID-19 — Michael Lotsaris, Department of Government and International

Relations, University of Sydney

Bushfire Smoke Exposure, COVID-19 and Respiratory Health — Geoff Morgan and Liberty Lawson, Sydney Environment Institute

We're in This Together: Working Towards a New Food Culture — Eva Perroni, PhD Research Fellow, Foodlab Sydney, Sydney Environment Institute

One Planet, One Health — Irus Braverman, Professor of Law and Adjunct Professor of Geography, The University at Buffalo

COVID-19 and Renewable Energy: Australia's Golden Opportunity — Madeline Taylor, Sydney Law School, The University of Sydney

Mental Health in an Age of Uncertainty — Dr Jo Longman and Maddy Braddon, University Centre for Rural Health, Lismore, The University of Sydney

Plastic Over People: Coronavirus War Profiteering — India Gill, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of Sydney

Post-Pandemic Development: Lessons from Indigenous Philosophies — Julie Sjø Pedersen, Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies, The University of Sydney

Collaborating during COVID-19: A reflection on our interconnection with trees — Diana Chester and Ann Jyothis Raj

Coming Together To Address (Another) Global Crisis — David Schlosberg, Director and Co-Founder, Sydney Environment Institute

Our Members

Professor Emeritus Iain
McCalman

Architecture, Design and Planning

Arianna Brambilla
Robyn Dowling
Dagmar Reinhardt

Arts and Social Sciences

Ruth Barcan
Benedetta Brevini
Diana Chester
Genevieve Campbell
Danielle Celemajer
Sophie Chao
Linda Connor
Ann Elias
Alastair Fraser
Lisa Heinze
Adrienne Hunt
Julia Kindt
Rebecca Lawrence
Tess Lea
Leah Lui-Chivizhe

Caitlin Maling
Alana Mann
Ian Maxwell
Zoe Morrison
Astrida Neimanis
Susan Park
Rebecca Pearse
Jude Philp
Elspeth Probyn
Susan Reid
Sabine Selchow
Anna Sturman
Madeline Taylor
Thom Van Dooren
Blanche Verlie
Dinesh Wadiwel
Christine Winter

Business School

Jan Kucic-Riker
Leanne Cutcher
Tanya Fiedler
Frances Flanagan
Kiju Jung
Christopher Wright

Engineering

Ali Abbas
Abbas El-Zein
Ehssan Sakhaee

Health Sciences

Ollie Jay
Eloise Howse

Law

Rosemary Lyster
Carolyn McKay
Kate Owens
Tim Stephens
Madeline Taylor
Medicine
Sinead Boylan

Science

Maria Byrne
William Figueira
Jacob Fry
Dieter Hochuli
Kurt Iveson
Tanya Latty

Manfred Lenzen
Thomas Maschmeyer
Arunima Malik
Joy Murray
Bill Pritchard
David Raubenheimer
Glenn Shea
Brigitte Sommer
Willem Vervoort
Ana Vila Concejo

Conservatorium of Music

Jodie Kell
Heather Shannon
Damien Ricketson

Building Our Community

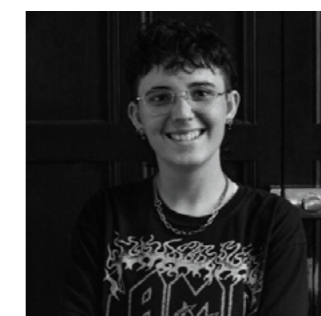
Honours Fellows



Sarah Chow

Department of Geosciences

Sarah Chow holds a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Environmental Studies, and is currently undertaking her Honours with the Department of Geosciences. Sarah's research interests include exploring the intersections between climate adaptation and the global infrastructure gap. Largely influenced by her time at Climate-KIC, her thesis will evaluate the variety of tools and metrics being used to close the widening investment gap.



Stella Maynard

Department of Gender and Cultural Studies

Stella Maynard is a writer that lives and works on unceded Gadigal land. They are currently researching the intersection of the carceral system and the weather through an abolitionist framework for an honours thesis in Cultural Studies at the University of Sydney. Their writing has been published by Society & Space, The Lifted Brow, The Saturday Paper, Running Dog, among other publications.



Zoe Stojanovic-Hill

Department of Government and International Relations

Zoe is completing a Bachelor of Arts in the Department of Government and International Relations and the Department of Political Economy at the University of Sydney. This year, her research will investigate environmental justice (EJ) and nature-based solutions (NBS) to urban climate change adaptation in the European Union, making a theoretical contribution to EJ theory and exploring the potential for NBS to be implemented in Australia.

PhD Candidates



Liberty Lawson

Department of Gender and Cultural Studies

SEI PhD Research Fellowship

Liberty is a PhD Research Fellow in the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies. Her research looks at the ontology of art-nature symbioses, post-humanist conservation policy and the future of coral reefs. Liberty is passionate about science communication and has worked with NGO's across the Indo-Pacific in coral reef restoration, marine conservation policy and sustainability education. She completed her Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours in History and Philosophy of Science. Liberty is a Global Oceans Ambassador for the NGO Positive Change for Marine Life, and an ACU Blue Charter Fellow.

Eco-Epistemologies of One Tree Island



Anna Sturman

Department of Political Economy

SEI PhD Research Fellowship

Anna is a PhD candidate in the Political Economy Department. Her research centres on New Zealand's climate change policy and uses a range of neo-Marxian theory to explore the state, agricultural capital and the valuation of non-human nature. In early 2019 Anna co-founded the Climate Justice Collective, a grassroots network organising toward a radical Green New Deal for Australia, with her fellow political economist Tash Heenan. Anna holds a First Class Honours degree in Political Science from the University of Canterbury and is a qualified Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand.

Capital, the State and Climate Change in Aotearoa, New Zealand

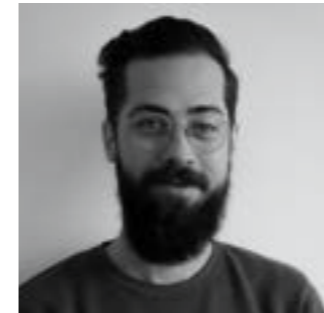


Gemma Viney

Department of Government and International Relations

Gemma is currently completing a PhD in the Department of Government and International relations. She is also a Research Assistant on the FASS 2018 Strategic Research Program Project developing the field of Multispecies Justice. Gemma's research investigates how issues of environmental justice are being presently articulated by Australian communities, and build from this, a context specific framework. Gemma was an Honours Research Fellow with the Sydney Environment Institute in 2017. She has a Bachelors degree in International and Global Studies from the University of Sydney, and a First-class Honours Degree in the Department of Government and International Relations.

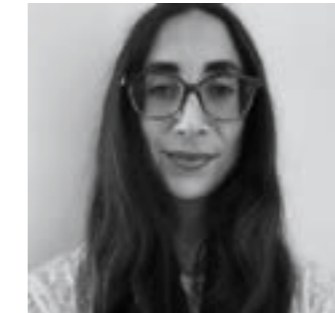
Anti-Mining Community Movements



Jan Kucic-Riker

Business School

Jan is a PhD student at the University of Sydney Business School where his research examines the role of community-owned renewable energy in Australia's low-carbon transition. His work considers the relations that govern the ownership and use of renewable energy as well as the tensions that exist between competing understandings of community energy. He is particularly interested in issues of political economy and how environmental crises interface with sufficiency-based ideas like the movement for degrowth. Jan has written on the challenges to building post-capitalist alternatives and reimagining wellbeing as separate from economic growth in the context of globalization.



Eva Perroni

Department of Media and Communications

FoodLab Sydney

Eva is a doctoral student at FoodLab Sydney, an interdisciplinary project supported by University of Sydney's Sydney Environment Institute (SEI) and UNSW Canberra, in partnership with the City of Sydney, and TAFE NSW addressing local food insecurity through participatory social enterprise. Her research will assess opportunities and processes in building a participatory culture to effectively address food insecurity and social exclusion within local communities in Sydney.



Omar Elkhrouf

Department of Government and International Relations

FoodLab Sydney

Omar is a PhD student with the Department of Government and International Relations and an SEI Research Assistant for Foodlab Sydney. Omar holds a Bachelor degree in Arts/Sciences with Honours in Human Geography from the University of Sydney. Omar gained field-based experience through several merit-based scholarship programs across the Asia-Pacific region, including Indonesia, China and Singapore. Omar was awarded First Class Honours for his research that investigated the ways that civil society actors based in Myanmar conceive, describe and address the food problems in their rural agrarian communities.

Postdoctoral Fellows



Genevieve Campbell

Genevieve Campbell's close involvement in the discovery and repatriation to the Tiwi Islands of archived song recordings led her to complete a PhD, working with elders to document and preserve Tiwi song language and melody. Her current focus is on documenting endangered song sets and the creation of new work centred around archival recordings of passed Tiwi composers and the words, knowledge, and voices of current Tiwi elders and young people.



Kate Johnston

FoodLab Sydney

Kate Johnston works on the ARC-funded project FoodLab Sydney with partners including City of Sydney and FoodLab Detroit. She has previously worked as project leader on a partnership project between the University of Sydney and Taronga Conservation Society Australia. The project developed and trialled a holistic tool for measuring socio-cultural, economic, and ecological dimensions of conservation.



Killian Quigley

Killian Quigley's research spans literary history, aesthetic theory, the history of science, colonial and postcolonial studies, historical geography, and the environmental humanities. Killian received his PhD from Vanderbilt University's Department of English. At Vanderbilt and at the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, in Paris, he taught across a range of subjects including maritime and marine literatures, ecocriticism, the poetry of the British Isle and Southern American fiction.



June Rubis

SEI Post-doctorate Fellow

June Rubis began her career as a conservation biologist and has twelve years in hands-on wildlife conservation fieldwork in both Indonesian and Malaysian Borneo. Much of her approach to her work follows the teachings of her late Bidayuh father, who in the last couple of decades, followed his grandparents' journey as a traditional Bidayuh priest and priestess. She holds both an MSc in Environmental Change and Management and a DPhil (PhD) in Geography & Environment, from the University of Oxford.



Brigitte Sommer

Sydney Fellow

Brigitte Sommer's research combines field ecology and statistical modelling to understand the processes that control the distribution and abundance of marine organisms and how they will respond to climate change. She is particularly interested in ecosystems at the transition of biogeographical zones, where tropical and temperate species overlap at the limits of their environmental tolerance and geographical ranges.



Blanche Verlie

SEI Post-doctorate Fellow

Blanche Verlie has a multidisciplinary background and works at the intersections between climate change, gender, culture, education, science studies, justice, emotions, affect and the more-than-human world. Blanche is currently working on a book title "Learning to Live-With Climate Change" which will be published by Routledge in 2021.



Dr. Christine J Winter

SEI Post-doctorate Fellow

Dr Christine Winter is a lecturer in the Department of Government & International Relations at the University of Sydney. Her research focuses at the intersection of intergenerational, indigenous and environmental justice, drawing on her Anglo-Celtic-Māori cultural heritage.



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