



INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROJECT

**Annual Report |
July 2018 – June 2019**

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Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada 

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Introduction

The Indigenous Environmental Justice (IEJ) research project is designed to advance the theory and practice of environmental justice by engaging with Indigenous intellectual and legal traditions. In essence, this project seeks to decolonize conventional understandings of environmental justice by revitalizing Indigenous conceptions of justice and law. We recognize that IEJ draws upon a set of assumptions about the place of humanity in a world that we share with other beings. In this project, we hope to address several key questions:

- What does the term 'Indigenous environmental justice' mean from the perspective of Indigenous knowledge systems, legal orders and justice frameworks?
- What logics inform Indigenous understandings of environmental justice (and/or injustice) in Canada?
- What principles guide IEJ practice?
- What does IEJ look like in practice, and how do we know when it is achieved?

Our long-term goal is to develop a knowledge-sharing framework that is informed by Indigenous knowledge systems (IKS), Indigenous legal orders and conceptions of justice, and the lived experiences of Indigenous peoples. It is aimed at facilitating progress towards greater environmental justice in Canada and elsewhere.

We recognize that achieving IEJ is about repairing inequitable and unjust relationships, not just among peoples, but also with other beings: our non-human "relatives". As such, IEJ involves the realization of responsibilities, obligations and duties of all beings and entities, including people.

Finally, we recognize that not all peoples have an equal voice in relaying their concerns about IEJ. Therefore, an important part of this project is to provide a space for the voices of people who lack the privilege and opportunities to share their views. We also wish to provide space for people to share their knowledge with, and learn from, each other. We are thus interested in facilitating knowledge-sharing forums and have developed a website to that end. The IEJproject.info.yorku.ca/ site was developed by a team of graduate and undergraduate students and launched in the spring of 2017. Its goals are to:

- Give voice to those who have knowledge, understanding and experiences to share on environmental justice;
- Provide space for sharing knowledge about IEJ activism, as well as issues that concern Indigenous peoples and others;
- Provide resources for those who wish to learn about IEJ and share relevant knowledge; and
- Facilitate communication and outreach on project activities that may be of interest to others.

Overall, the intention of the project, including the website, outreach activities and other project initiatives, is to enable a vision of justice that supports the continuance of life.

IEJ Activities At A Glance

The team that comprises the Indigenous Environmental Justice Project has been working diligently on the project since its launch in 2016. Here is a snapshot of what they've accomplished during that time:

3+ Years of Work to Date

148 Stories Heard / Shared

600 people engaged

10,000 data points

2,156 Social Media Followers

629 Social Media Likes

22 Presentations

13 Events / Sub-Projects

69 Media / Outreach Initiatives

18 Resources & Publications

Publications (Peer Reviewed)

Arsenault, R, Bourassa, C, Diver, S., McGregor, D, & Witham, A. 2019. Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Environmental Assessments: Restructuring the Process. *Governance. Global Environmental Politics*.19:3. 120-132. DOI: [org./10.1162/gelp_a_00519](https://doi.org/10.1162/gelp_a_00519). (20% contribution)

McGregor, D. 2018. Governing for Indigenous Environmental Justice in Canada; In *The Politics of Indigenous Spaces: Forging Indigenous Places in Intertwined Worlds*. Eds. Nicole Gombay & Marcela Palomino-Schalscha. Routledge. Taylor & Francis Books. Oxon, UK: 226-243.

McGregor, D. 2018. Indigenous Environmental Justice, Knowledge and Law. *Kalfou Journal of Comparative and Relational Ethnic Studies*. Temple University Press

McGregor, D. 2019. "All Our Relations: Indigenous Perspectives on Environmental Issues in Canada." In: *Visions of the Heart: Issues Involving Indigenous Peoples in Canada*. Eds. Gina Starblanket and David Long. Oxford University Press (5th edition). Pp 182-202

McGregor, D. 2019. *Reconciliation, Colonialism and Climate Change*. In: *Policy Transformation in Canada: Is the Past Prologue?* (University of Toronto Press: Toronto): Eds. Carolyn Tuohy, Sophie Borwien, Peter Loewen & Andrew Potter. Pp. 139-147.

McGregor, D. 2019. Truth Be Told: Redefining Relationships Through Indigenous Research.. In *Redefining Relationships*. Eds. Karen Drake & Brenda Gunn. Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp Native Law Center, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK. Pp 9-36

McGregor, D. Minobimaatasiiwin. 2019. In: *Pluriverse: A Post-Development Dictionary: From False Solutions to Radical Alternatives to Development*. Eds. Kothari, A, Salleh, R., Esobar, A., Demaria, F, Acosta. D., Tulika Books. New Delhi, India. Pp. 240-243.

McGregor, D. 2018. Reconciliation and environmental justice, *Journal of Global Ethics*,14:2, 222-231, DOI: [10.1080/17449626.2018.1507005](https://doi.org/10.1080/17449626.2018.1507005)

McGregor. D. 2018. Mino-Mnaamodzawin: Achieving Indigenous Environmental Justice in Canada. *Environment and Society: Advances in Research* 9 (2018): 7–24 © Berghahn Books doi:10.3167/ares.2018.090102

Book Edited (Peer Reviewed)

McGregor, D., Johnson, R., and Restoule, J.P. 2018. *Indigenous Research: Theories, Practices, and Relationships*. Canadian Scholars Press. 475 pages.

Conference, Symposium and Presentation Highlights | 2018-2019

Decolonizing Conservation: How ENGOs Can Support Reconciliation in the Conservation Sector

Presented by the Sustainability Network | September 21, 2019 | CSI Annex

Several Indigenous leaders with expertise in various aspects of conservation and Indigenous governance from across Canada spoke to an audience of ENGO representatives about the idea that, done appropriately, environmentalism can serve as a first step towards reconciliation. Participants were shown that the long-standing relationships of Indigenous peoples with the Land and the revitalization of the traditional economies which have been displaced by colonization and colonial conceptions of conservation are essential to creating ecologically harmonious civilizations. See the event webpage at <http://bit.ly/SUSTAINNET>, and the video at <http://bit.ly/DCENGO>.

World Indigenous Law Conference

November 18-21, 2018 | University of Windsor

This conference brought together lawyers, judges, academics, knowledge keepers, policy experts, community leadership, community advocates, students and more to share conversation about the implementation of Indigenous Law into contemporary western legal systems. The theme of the conference was “Waawiiatanong Ziibi: Where the River Bends, The Application of Indigenous Laws in Indigenous Communities and in the Courts”



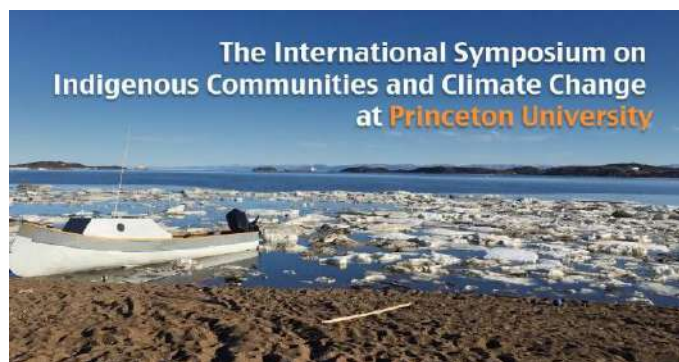
Dr. Deborah McGregor, alongside Dr. Nicole Latulippe and Sue Chiblow, presented “The role of Indigenous research methodologies and Indigenous knowledges in codifying Anishinaabek environmental legal orders”. The workshop highlighted how Indigenous research can be used to engage in community-based research to document or codify Indigenous knowledges, while maintaining the importance of ceremony and spirituality. Day 2 also featured numerous Indigenous presenters, including another panel with Dr. Deborah McGregor, Sue Chiblow and Aimée Craft. The topic this time was “Nibi Onje Biimaadiiziwin: WATER IS LIFE”, with the primary focus being on relationships with water.



Left to Right: Sue Chiblow, Aimée Craft, Beverly Jacobs, Deborah McGregor

Climate Justice: Listening to the Youth, Listening to the Land **International Symposium on Indigenous Communities and Climate Change |** December 6-7, 2018 | Princeton University

Deborah and Hillary McGregor presented at this symposium, which brought together scholars and journalists to explore the impact of climate change on Indigenous communities throughout the Americas and Russia. Both Deb and Hillary shared traditional Anishinaabek stories and teachings relating to Indigenous understandings of the environment, or



Mother Earth, and how she is trying to teach us, through global environmental crises including climate change, about the vital importance of reestablishing harmonious relationships among all the beings and entities of this planet. The stories Deb and Hillary shared, as well as the messages Mother Earth is currently sending us, must be incorporated into government policy and action if we are to move forward on these issues.

Currently, the stories being heard most often come from the very source (industrialized society) of the problem. It is time to start listening to stories that originate from different world views, ones that are much more balanced in their relationships with the earth. In addition, Hillary stressed the importance of young people finding the strength and courage to take action in the face of daunting obstacles. It is up to all of us to realize our responsibilities to the earth and to regain and maintain our connection to the land.



An article on the conference can be found [here](#), with further information to be found at <https://www.facebook.com/PrincetonHumanities/videos/983637228503479/>.

Resisting Extractivism, Performing Opposition

March 2, 2019 | OCAD University

Deb McGregor and Nasreen Hussain of the IEJ Project were invited to open this symposium organized by York University's Zoe Heyn-Jones. Each gave a presentation on the work of the project, and the recently produced IEJ video (Visit: <https://iejproject.info.yorku.ca/live-stream/>) was shown.. IEJ researchers, Jayce Chiblow, Nasra Moumin, Mika Mackinnon, and Abdeali Saherwala networked throughout the day inviting participants to share their perspectives of Indigenous environmental justice to promote further dialogue on IEJ.

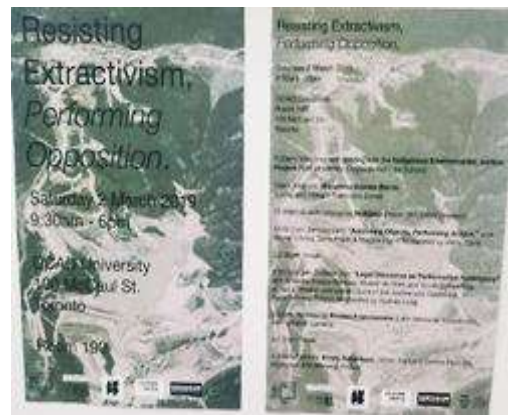


Photo Credit: Jayce Chiblow

Environmental Justice: A Panel on the Connections Between Environmentalism & Social Justice

March 20, 2019 | York University

Hosted by the Environmental Law Society at Osgoode Hall Law School, these lectures focused on gender issues in environmental justice, as well as the potentially critical role that Indigenous knowledges may play in responding to current environmental crises. Both McGregor and Scott agreed on the importance of changing the focus of contemporary discourse to solutions, particularly self-determined solutions. The informative talk presented EJ in a different light, allowing attendees to explore approaches that aim to balance rights and responsibilities.



Religion and the Environment: A Faithful Response to the Environmental Crisis

March 21, 2019 | University of Toronto

Deb McGregor spoke at this panel presentation organized by the University of Toronto's Muslim Student Association. The panel discussed different faith-based approaches to help foster the responsibilities humans have towards conserving the environment in useful and mindful ways. By building and rebuilding stronger connections among people and with the Earth, we can begin to become more conscious of our daily actions and how these will affect the generations of tomorrow.



Decolonization and Climate Change

May 22-23, 2019 | Loretto College, University of Toronto



This event, hosted by the Joint Ecological Ministry, was brought together many religious community leaders who are part of faith and justice networks from the GTA and elsewhere in southern Ontario. Its purpose was to engage and inspire people to think about how decolonization is crucial to dismantling oppression and the systems that uphold it.

The *'Doctrine of Discovery'* was explained in historical and contemporary context by Cree author, lawyer and professor, Sylvia McAdam, a founding member of the Idle No More movement. Deb McGregor's presentation looked at environmental justice through the lens of engagement with Indigenous knowledge and legal traditions.



Deborah McGregor and Sylvia McAdam.
Photo Credit: Nasreen Hussain

Politics, Knowledge, Ecology, Culture

April 8, 2019 | Kaneff Tower, York University

This event was conducted by the Centre for Feminist Research as part of its 2nd annual Indigenous Women's Speakers' series. Dr. Karyn Reollet, Assistant Professor in the Women and Gender Studies Institute at the University of Toronto, presented her work on urban Indigenous arts as well as understanding of land pedagogies. Afterwards, Dr. Cheryl Suzack, Assistant Professor in the Department of English at the University of Toronto, presented her research on Indigenous law and literatures with a particular emphasis on writing by Indigenous and marginalized women. Finally, Deb McGregor presented her research on Indigenous knowledge systems.

School Presentations

The IEJ Project Team, frequently in partnership with the Faculty of Environmental Studies, both visited and hosted a number of high schools and one elementary school during 2018 and 2019. High school students from around Ontario also attended the ‘Change Your World’ conference hosted by FES at York.

The goals of connecting with the school students were threefold:

- 1) to introduce students to the concept of IEJ, including its cultural background and contemporary relevance;
- 2) to introduce students specifically to the IEJ project, its goals and various undertakings; and
- 3) to encourage students to consider further education and eventual careers in environmental and Indigenous studies at York and elsewhere.

Students were engaged in discussion using a variety of methods, including video presentations (visit: <https://vimeo.com/261339253>), word association and other content-based games, readings (e.g., from Edward Benton-Benai), and theme-based art projects. A list of IEJ Project school events is listed in Table 1 and Table 2 below.

Table 1: Dates and Locations of IEJ Project’s school presentations in 2018

2018 Dates	Workshop Name	School Name, Location	Event Location
March 20	Listening to the Land	Ecole Ronald-Marion, Pickering	York University
October 11	IEJ Presentation at the Change Your World Conference	Various schools from around Ontario	York University
October 15, 22	Indigenous Environmental Justice	Elmvale District High School, Elmvale	Elmvale DHS, Elmvale, ON
December 10	Indigenous Environmental Justice	Stephen Lewis Secondary School	Stephen Lewis SS, Mississauga
December 12	Indigenous Environmental Justice	School of Life Experience Alternative School, Toronto	York University

Table 2: Dates and locations of IEJ Project school presentations 2019.

2019 Dates	Workshop Name	School Name, Location	Event Location
April 9	Indigenous Environmental Justice	Pierre Elliot Trudeau High School, Markham	Pierre Elliot Trudeau HS, Markham, ON
June 21	Water is Life	Baycrest Public School, Toronto	Baycrest PS, Toronto

School Presentation Photo Gallery



**Image 1: “Listening to the Land”
Workshop, with École Ronald-Marion
| March 20, 2018 | York University**



**Image 2: Change Your World 2018 |
October 11, 2018 | York University**



Image 2-A: Change Your World 2018



Image 3: Elmvale District High School Workshops | October 15 and 22, 2018 | Elmvale

Photo credits: Max Klein



Image 3-A: Elmvale District High School Workshops

Photo credits: Max Klein



Image 4: Stephen Lewis Secondary School | December 10, 2018 | Mississauga

“If you’re not struggling for social justice and equality, why are you on the planet?”

- Stephen Lewis

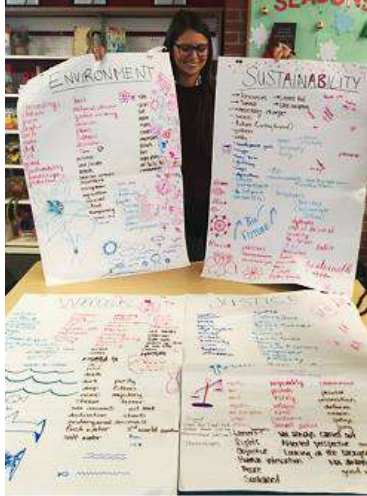


Image 4-A: Stephen Lewis Secondary School



Image 5: IEJ Workshop for “School of Life Experience” Alternative Senior High School | December 12, 2018 | York University

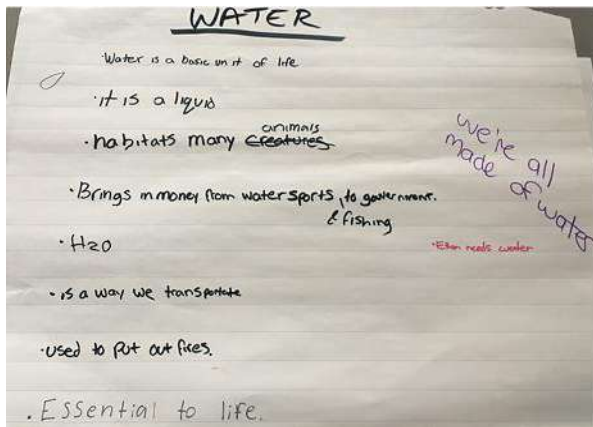


Image 5-A: IEJ Workshop for “School of Life Experience” Alternative Senior High School



Photo Credits: Nasreen Hussain

Image 6: Pierre Elliot Trudeau High School - IEJ Workshop | April 9, 2019



Photo Credits: Nasreen Hussain

Image 6-A: Pierre Elliot Trudeau High School



Image 7: Baycrest Public School Workshop | June 21, 2019 | North York, Toronto



Image 7-A: Baycrest Public School Workshop

Public Presentations

The IEJ project is committed to mobilizing knowledge to the broader public, including presentations in public libraries or public lectures. Below we've highlighted some of the projects that took place over the year.

Indigenous Environmental Justice Project

October 10, 2018 | Toronto Public Library, Beaches Branch

An hour-long presentation on the IEJ project was delivered, focusing on two major components of the research: youth engagement using arts-based research methods, and a comparison of the differences between Indigenous and Western conceptions of water. Both aspects emphasized the importance of honoring research participants and communities as a way of giving back (reciprocity). A brief tour of the IEJ website was given towards the end of the presentation, along with the resource page for students and others interested in doing their own research.



Audience members gathered at the Beaches Branch of the Toronto Public Library to learn more about the Indigenous Environmental Justice project. Photo credit: Max Klein.

Whitney and Anna Harris Conservation Forum

November 8, 2018 | Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Centre, University of Missouri, St. Louis

Dr. Deborah McGregor joined Drs. Gregory Caiete and Daniel Wildcat to discuss Traditional Ecological Knowledge in St. Louis for the Whitney and Anna Harris Conservation Forum. The event provided an important opportunity for creating further cross-cultural and international context in the discourse around Indigenous Environmental Justice.



Deb McGregor presenting at the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Centre

“Our Fragile Planet” Series

May 1, 2019 & June 12, 2019 | Toronto Public Library

The Indigenous Environmental Justice Project was featured in the Toronto Public Library’s “Our Fragile Planet” Series. The first event was held at High Park Branch on May 1, 2019, followed by another presentation at Lilian H. Smith Branch on June 12, 2019. The presentations focused on brief introductions of IEJ terms and ideas, followed Jayce Chiblow and Max Corne-Klein’s recent research findings.



Jayce’s work looks at how traditional knowledge can inspire restorative frameworks that can repair and strengthen relations to ancestral lands weakened by colonialism, globalism and neoliberal policies. Max Klein’s research looks at Indigenous food sovereignty and climate change and access to activism through art.

IEJ and Water Allies Speaker Series Collaboration

Deborah McGregor, from IEJ and Bonnie McElhinny of the Water Allies, from University of Toronto, coordinated a water justice speaker series titled “*Stories and Sovereignty: Winter Tales of Water and Love*”, during the Winter/Spring of 2019. Below are some of the collaboration’s highlights.

What We Do to the Water We Do to Ourselves

January 10, 2019 | University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario

Stories around the critical importance of water were shared as part of this kick-off event for the winter series, “*Stories and Sovereignty: Winter Tales of Water and Love*”, a joint collaboration between the IEJ Project (York University) and the Water Allies Project (University of Toronto).



Photo: Nasreen Hussain/Event Coordinator, Jayce Chiblow/Research Assistant IEJ, Dr. Debby Danard and Dr. Bonnie McElhinny/New College UofT (left to right).

In Anishinaabek teachings, winter has traditionally been, and remains, a time for storytelling, reflection, restoration, as well as envisioning the moment when the sap (sugar water) flows and the ice breaks up in the spring. Dr. Danard pointed out, “How do we allow earth to take care of herself and fulfill her responsibilities?”

Nibi Onje Biimaadiiziiwin: Water is Life Panel

January 15, 2019 | University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario

Nibi Onje Biimaadiiziiwin: Water is Life Panel: Deborah McGregor, Sue Chiblow and Aimee Craft participated on a panel that took place at New College/University of Toronto on January 15, 2019. The Nibi Onje Biimaadiiziiwin: *Water is Life* panel brought together a panel and share knowledge on their stories, experiences and research, to foster dialogue on Indigenous water law and concerns facing our waters and Indigenous communities today. The presentation engaged the audience in questions of water asserting jurisdiction and governance in relation to peoples.

Walking for the Water

March 7, 2019 | York University, Toronto, Ontario

Kelsey Leonard (Shinnecock Indian Nation), scholar in water policy from McMaster University and water protector, discussed her research and experience with water walkers and how they have created awareness globally, gaining support for the importance of water protection and promoting Indigenous approaches to caring for the water. Kelsey's work honors the legacy of Grandmother Josephine, whose hope was to inspire others through stories and through the walks to re-establish respectful and ethical relationships with the waters.



Photo credit: Nasreen Hussain

Feasting the Forgotten Rivers Water Walk 2019

March 22, 2019 | Toronto, Ontario



Photo credits: Kristen Bass

Beginning at the Evergreen Brickworks in Toronto's Don River Valley and ending at Queens Quay in the Toronto Harbour, this walk was held in honour of World Water Day and aimed to raise awareness of the ancient waters which continue to flow through and bring life to this city. The event included various ceremonial aspects, including water carrying and food offerings, in addition to the recognition of the traditional territories of the Nations through which the waters flow. An honour song was also performed in recognition of the late Grandmother Josephine Mandamin (Iban). Following the walk, participants gathered at the University of Toronto's New College for a screening of the film 'Water Warriors'. The event was co-sponsored by U of T's Water Allies and the York IEJ Project.



Photo credits: Kristen Bass

A film screening of Water Warriors was offered on World Water Day on March 22nd, 2019. Water Warriors is a brilliant documentary that chronicles a community's flight to protect their water from the oil and gas industry-fracking. The film can be found at <http://www.storyline.media/waterwarriors> along with a curriculum guide, which can be found online: <http://bit.ly/waterwarriorfilm>. Dr. Nicole Latulippe, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto facilitated the discussion after the film screening.



Photo credits: Kristen Bass



Photo credits: Nasreen Husain

Keynote Addresses

Decolonizing the Climate Change Agenda: The role of Indigenous Knowledge Systems. Joint Ecological Ministry. Decolonization and Climate Change Symposium. Mary Ward Center. University of Toronto. Toronto, Ontario. May 22, 2019

Indigenous Environmental Justice, Knowledge and Law. Katherine A.H. Graham Keynote. Faculty of Public Affairs. Carleton University. Ottawa, Ontario. June 10, 2019

Indigenous Peoples, Climate Change and Strong Minds. Climate Change and Mental Health: Tools for Advocacy. Psychiatry Advocacy Day. Department of Psychiatry. University of Toronto, Ontario. June 5, 2019

Indigenous Research: Future Directions. Manitoulin Anishinabek Research Review Committee Research Conference. Noojimawin Health Authority. Little Current, Ontario. February 1-2, 2019

Setting the Context: Indigenous Research. 2nd Bi-Annual Research Symposium: Moving Forward in First Nations Health Research. Chiefs of Ontario. Toronto, Ontario. February 25, 2019

Starting with Spirit: Water Governance and Traditional Knowledge in Canada. Gender and Water Security Public Forum. Canadian Embassy of Canada to Peru and Bolivia, Government of Peru, United States Embassy. Lima, Peru. June 12, 2019

Women and Water: Taking Responsibilities for the well-being of the Waters. United Nations Day of Women and Girls in Science. United Nation University-Institute for Water, Environment and Health (NU-INWEH), Indigenous Studies, Global Water Future, McMaster University, Ontario. February 11, 2019

Indigenous Youth Workshops

An important part of the IEJ project is to provide support and capacity to Indigenous peoples and communities. Several workshops were delivered to Indigenous youth.

IEJ and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Workshop

August 20, 2018 | Chippewas of the Thames First Nation

Deborah McGregor and Jayce Chiblow led an IEJ and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Workshop to youth that are part of the ANTLER Great Lakes Guardians program. The workshop was delivered in Chippewas of the Thames First Nation on August 20, 2018.

Developing Indigenous Environmental Keepers

January 17, 2019 | Naughton, Ontario

Deborah McGregor delivered a workshop titled Traditional Ecological Knowledge for a youth group focused on environment, called Developing Indigenous Environmental Keepers Youth Program. The workshop was held in Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, Naughton, Ontario on January 17, 2019.

Self-Determination and Climate Change Futures

April 6 & 7, 2019 | Wendake, Quebec

Deborah and Hillary McGregor, along with Jayce Chiblow, delivered a climate justice, traditional knowledge, culture and language workshop to First Nation youth from across Canada. Co-Workshop Leader [with Jayce Chiblow & Hillary McGregor] Earth Stories: Self-Determination and Climate Change. The workshop was delivered as part of the National First Nations Youth Summit on Environment and Climate Change. Wendake, Quebec. April 6-7th, 2019.

First Nations have their own climate change stories that explain the environmental challenges we currently face. The workshop illustrated how Anishinabe stories can help us understand climate change and what we need to do to form a self-determined future. Led by youth, Hillary and Jayce, for youth the workshop focused on how our own languages and land-based activities can be a source of strength in the face of great change.



IEJ Multi-Media

The Anishinabek Rationality Podcast Series

June 2019

As part of Indigenous History Month, June 2019, IEJ released a series of podcasts. The pod casts can be found at <https://iejproject.info.yorku.ca/podcast/>. The Anishinabek Rationality Podcast series consists of:

- **Episode 1 – Introduction featuring the IEJ’s Principal Investigator, Deborah McGregor.**
This episode provides the background information of the podcast series, with a brief introduction to the topics discussed in the following ups.
- **Episode 2 – Anishinabek Women’s Nibi Kendaaswin featuring Ogamauh annag qwe, Jaajuk Dodem, Sue Chiblow, Crane Clan, Garden River First Nation, Councillor, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University.**
This episode highlights Sue’s life work, with a primary focus on Anishinabek Women’s water knowledge.
- **Episode 3 – Anishinabek Food Sovereignty featuring Jayce Chiblow, Garden River First Nation, MES Candidate, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University.**
This episode discusses Jayce’s Masters research project, highlighting her findings from working with youth in Garden River First Nation.

UKRI International Collaboration Initiative

April 2019

The UKRI International Collaboration Initiative is an Indigenous and non-Indigenous research collaborations was launched in April 2019. It is publicly accessible website (<https://www.indigenous.ncrm.ac.uk/>)

Footprints in the Sand: Podcast

April 2019

Footprints in the Sand: Podcast was launched April 2019. It can be found at: <https://www.indigenous.ncrm.ac.uk/resources/footprint-in-the-sand-a-discussion-on-indigenous-and-non-indigenous-research-methods/>

IEJ Video Launch and Art Exhibit

January 27, 2019 | Glendon Gallery, York University

Indigenous Environmental Justice video launch and art exhibit was cohosted with Canadian Language Museum. It was held at the Language Museum on the Glendon Campus. This event signified the official release of the IEJ Project video series (Visit: <https://iejproject.info.yorku.ca/live-stream/>).

The video consists of four vignettes, the films include the voices and perspectives of Indigenous activists, youth, artists, grandmothers and elders who shared their stories and experiences with the project. All were participants in one or more IEJ workshops and other events over the past three years. The videos highlight thematic discussion around environmental justice, water decolonization, Indigenous knowledge, responsibility, reciprocity, relationships and reconciliation with the environment, as understood through the eyes of project participants. The purpose of the videos is to extend the IEJ conversation beyond academia and to act as a resource through social media platforms (YouTube, Facebook and Twitter), the IEJ website and through being incorporated into school lesson plans, curricula and educational workshops.



Screen shots of the 4 IEJ video vignettes.



Left to Right: Nasreen Hussain, Jayce Chiblow and Dr. Deborah McGregor.



Left to Right: Meagan Dellavilla and Artist Patricia Martin with "Mino Bimaadziwin". Photo Credit: Jayce Chiblow

IEJ Team 2018-2019

This team of academics, community collaborators and students work with a broad range of scholars, researchers, environmental managers, ENGOs, government officials, First Nations leaders and others involved in environmental justice issues.

Academia

Dr. Deborah McGregor, Associate Professor



Dr. Deborah McGregor (Anishinaabe), Principal Investigator, holds the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice at York University. She is cross-appointed to both Osgoode Hall Law School and 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. [Read more.](#)

Dr. Brenda Murphy, Professor



Dr. Brenda Murphy has been involved in applied resource management and social justice research throughout her career, most recently focusing on Aboriginal disaster management and resilience, as well as climate change and maple syrup production. As a former Graduate Coordinator for Social Justice and Community Engagement at Wilfred Laurier University, Dr. Murphy is both highly committed to and experienced in innovative knowledge mobilization applications. Her expertise in this area will form an essential component of the research project.

Dr. Dayna Nadine Scott, Associate Professor



Dr. Dayna Nadine Scott is an environmental law and justice scholar cross appointed to Osgoode Hall Law School and Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES). She recently completed a SSHRC-funded research project in partnership with environmental justice activists from Aamiiwnaang First Nations which tackled the issue of chronic pollution on an First Nation community. She recently published an edited volume, *Our Chemical Selves: Gender, Toxics and Environmental Health* (UBC Press, 2015). Dr. Scott brings environmental law and policy analysis capacities to the team as well as commitment to ethical research processes with Indigenous communities. [Read more.](#)

Dr. Martha Stiegman, Assistant Professor



Dr. Martha Stiegman's expertise in Indigenous knowledge, rights, food sovereignty and justice, coupled with her experience in decolonizing research methods which include participatory media production and dissemination strategies, will make invaluable contributions to the Indigenous environmental justice dialogue and eventual deliverables of this project. She has, in partnership with various First Nations, been engaged for over a decade in collaborative film making and participatory video production on topics relating to treaty rights, traditional law and sustainable harvesting. [Read more.](#)

Dr. Nicole Latulippe, Research Associate



Dr. Nicole Latulippe is interested in the relationships between Anishinaabek knowledge, law and governance systems, and how these relate to Canadian environmental policy. Dr. Latulippe joined the University of Toronto Scarborough's Department of Human Geography and the Department of Physical and Environmental Science in July 2018.

Dr. Mary Ann Corbiere, Assistant Professor



Dr. Mary Ann Corbiere has served for over two decades in many leadership functions, including Chair of the Native Studies Department at the University of Sudbury. She is an Anishinaabemowin scholar and serves as co-editor for the Anishinaabemowin language series. Dr. Corbiere utilizes a community-based approach to language education working with fluent speakers. Her Anishinaabemowin-English on-line dictionary is forthcoming through the Algonquian Dictionaries and Linguistic Atlas website. Dr. Corbiere brings Anishinaabemowin and other Indigenous knowledge expertise to the project. [Read more.](#)

Community Collaborators



Ms. Kathleen Padulo

Ms. Kathleen Padulo (Oneida) is currently Environment Director with the Chiefs of Ontario. Ms. Padulo's master's thesis, "Environmental Protection for a First Nation Community," consisted of a community-based environmental justice project involving 6 First Nation communities in the process of addressing waste management challenges. Kathleen has professional experience in policy development, capacity-building and advocacy derived from her years of working with First Nations, ENGOs and federal and provincial governments.



Ms. Susan Chiblow

Ms. Susan Chiblow (Anishinaabe) completed her master's thesis, "Social Aspects affecting Mold Growth in First Nations Communities," at Royal Roads University. She is currently a Ph.D. student in York University's Faculty of Environmental Studies and serves as the Environment and Resource portfolio holder in her First Nation. She is also assisting the Mississauga First Nation in the development of the community's environmental laws and management regimes under a self-government process. She is an appointed member of the National Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Sub-Committee for Species at Risk.



Ms. Nancy Deleary

Artist and community leader Nancy Deleary of Chippewas of Thames First Nation. A trained artist in the final stages of completing her Master of Fine Arts Degree at the Vermont College of Fine Arts, she has experiences in a variety of art media. Ms. Deleary has been commissioned to produce plays, exhibitions, and community art installations for over three decades. Her approach to art is intended to strengthen cultural identity and resilience. She will make invaluable contributions in this project by conceptualizing ways of representing IKS and environmental justice through arts-based productions. Her contributions will aid in the ongoing process of revitalizing Indigenous forms of knowledge mobilization and increasing the accessibility of research outputs across generations.

Students



Aamina Masood, Research Assistant

Aamina has a degree in Political Science and two certificate programs: one in Refugee Studies and the other in Public Administration and Law. She hopes to attend law school or continue in York University's Masters in Public Policy and Administration program.



David Bazargan, Web Developer & Researcher

David is a Student Member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in City Studies and Human Geography from the University of Toronto. He was the recipient of the Han Shan Sih Buddhist Scholarship in 2016. His research focuses on planning for housing and food security using LEED Standards.



Jayce Chiblow, Research Assistant

Jayce Chiblow (Anishinaabe) is from Garden River First Nation has completed her Master's degree in Environmental Studies at York University. Having previously completed a Bachelor of Biological Sciences, her input for the IEJ Project will include researching current and projected climate change impacts on Indigenous peoples.



Meagan Dellavilla, Research Assistant

Meagan possesses a BA in sociology, environmental studies and psychology, and a certificate in documentary filmmaking. She has completed her Masters in Environmental Studies including a graduate diploma in Environmental and Sustainability Education. Her graduate work sought to explore the intersections of environmental violence, cultural continuation, health and wellbeing, identity and displacement. She is also particularly interested in the role of young women in the environmental justice movement.



Monica Shafik, Research Assistant

Monica is in her final year of an Honours Double Major in International Development and Law & Society at York University. Monica has been a member of the IEJ team for 2 years now, both as the director of Communications and Outreach and as a Research Assistant. Her contributions to the project this year include outreach strategy and management, and an international environmental policy analysis. As a Coptic woman, Monica is pursuing a legal career in Indigenous and human-rights advocacy with the intent of advancing Indigenous self-determined development.

Nasreen Hussain, Video Editor/Research Assistant



Nasreen is a Master's graduate from York University's Environmental Studies program (2017). Her research looks at the significance of water through Indigenous worldview. She completed the Documentary and Film-making program at Seneca College. She enjoys writing, video recording and interviewing and is hoping to create more positive outcomes for water and environmental justice through art and multi-media.

Peter Mangaly, Research Assistant



Peter is a finance major who has been working with Dr. McGregor since the inception of the IEJ Project. Peter has seen his role grow from Research Assistant to a JD Research Assistant responsible for editing and producing IEJ project videos, articles and reports.

Salisha Purushuttam, Research Assistant



Salisha Purushuttam, recipient of the 2016-2017 Law and Society Honours Prize and the 2017 Canada Graduate Scholarship. She is currently a Masters Candidate in the Socio-Legal Studies program at York University. Her commitment to social justice has fundamentally shaped her research interests, professional work and advocacy, which range from environmental justice, public health, institutional racism, and gender and public policy. Salisha has been an integral part of the IEJ Project since its inception, having directly engaged in knowledge mobilization through the production of video and written content now available on the IEJ Project's website and social media outlets.

Lauren King, Research Assistant



Lauren King (Turtle Clan, Ojibway/Cayuga) is a member of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. She completed her degree in International Business Management at Conestoga College of Applied Arts and Technology in 2018. Lauren is a Project Assistant with the Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Health Transformation Team.

A misty forest landscape with a lake and trees reflected in the water. The scene is captured in a soft, atmospheric light, with a dense forest of evergreen and deciduous trees in the background. The foreground shows a calm body of water reflecting the surrounding greenery and the overcast sky. The overall mood is serene and quiet.

Final Comments

Almost every conflict between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples relates to injustices regarding land and resources. The development of an Indigenous-specific website and facilitating networking opportunities (e.g. website, webinar, video, symposiums) for sharing knowledge will assist Indigenous people's access to justice.

Overall, this project intends to influence the EJ landscape in Canada by enabling Indigenous access to environmental justice and well-being.

Contact

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