

ACA@UBC 15th Annual Conference



# ARCHIVES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Land, Colonialism, and the Climate Crisis

**February 16, 2024**

# WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome!

The Association of Canadian Archivists at the University of British Columbia (ACA@UBC) is proud to present our fifteenth annual conference—Archives and the Environment: Land, Colonialism, and the Climate Crisis.

As a virtual event, attendees and speakers will be coming from many different places around the world. ACA@UBC would like to acknowledge that the UBC iSchool is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the hə́ńǵəmińə́ń-speaking Musqueam people. We are grateful to host this year's conference on this beautiful land.

This year, we have a total of fifteen guest speakers, including outstanding students, internationally-renowned academics, and acclaimed professionals from institutions around the world.

This virtual conference brings together students, scholars, and practitioners whose work explores the reciprocal relationship between archival practice and the changing conditions of the land and environment. Through virtual discussions and presentations, speakers will explore archival and recordkeeping practices amidst rapid climate change, the capacity of the land as record, and archival applications informed by the impacts of colonialism and capitalism upon the environment. We are delighted that you are joining us for this year's event and we extend a warm welcome to all students, professionals, faculty, staff, and speakers here today.

Sincerely,

The ACA@UBC Executive Team 2023–2024

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

(ALL TIMES IN PST)

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- 9:00 **INTRODUCTION**  
Linnet Chappelka and Jennifer Douglas
- 9:10 **KEYNOTE**  
Kim Lawson, Melissa Adams (speaking on behalf of Kim Lawson)  
Moderator: JT; Chat Moderator: Seiji Bessho
- 9:40 **RESPONSES TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS**  
Simen Fjeld-Olsen, Hannes Dempewolf, Amanda Oliver  
Moderator: Coco Chen; Chat Moderator: Emma Moros
- 10:55 **[BREAK]**
- 11:10 **CONFRONTING COLONIAL INJUSTICE**  
Sara Grossman, Omar Ferwati, Agata Nguyen Chuong  
Moderator: Coco Chen; Chat Moderator: Seiji Bessho
- 12:25 **[LUNCH]**
- 1:00 **LAND AS MEMORY**  
Rose Miyonga, Susan Webster, Rami Zurayk  
Moderator: Dharani Persaud; Chat Moderator: Lily Liu
- 2:15 **[BREAK]**
- 2:35 **STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**  
Amy Wickner; Eddie Buergler  
Moderator: Seiji Bessho; Chat Moderator: Grace Park
- 3:15 **[BREAK]**
- 3:30 **STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**  
Dana Murray; Harry Hoy  
Moderator: Seiji Bessho; Chat Moderator: Grace Park
- 4:10 **CLOSING REMARKS**  
Linnet Chappelka  
Moderator: Seiji Bessho; Chat Moderator: Grace Park

## KEYNOTE

FEBRUARY 16, 9:10-9:40

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### **Kim Lawson** (she/her)

*Research and Community Liaison Librarian, Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre (IRSHDC) at UBC*

### **Melissa Adams** (she/her)

*Librarian and Archivist, Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs*  
(speaking on behalf of Kim Lawson)

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We have the honour of introducing Kim Lawson as our keynote speaker for the 15th ACA@UBC Conference. Kim is a member of the Heiltsuk Nation (Bella Bella, BC) and is the Research and Community Liaison Librarian at the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre (IRSHDC) at the University of British Columbia.

Melissa Adams will be presenting on behalf of Kim Lawson. Melissa is the Librarian and Archivist at the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Resource Centre. She is a member of the Nisga'a Nation from the House of Wisin Xbil'tkw of the Gisk'aast (Killerwhale) tribe.

# RESPONSES TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS

FEBRUARY 16, 9:40-10:55

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## **Hannes Dempewolf** (he/him)

(Speaking on behalf of Crop Trust and the Svalbard Global Seed Vault project)

*Chief strategic adviser, Senior Scientist at the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust)*

## **Simen Fjeld-Olsen** (he/him)

*Operations Manager at Piql and the Arctic World Archive*

## **Amanda Oliver** (she/her)

*Head of Archives and Special Collections at Wilfrid Laurier University*

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“Responses to Climate Crisis” brings together speakers who have undertaken innovative, adaptive archival practices and modes of thought in response to how climate change threatens the current and future integrity of record preservation. Discussions may include the effects of climate change on archives, institutional adaptation for climate change, and ways to preserve records for future generations.

# CONFRONTING COLONIAL INJUSTICE

FEBRUARY 16, 11:10-12:25

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**Omar Ferwati** (he/him)

*Research Coordinator, Forensic Architecture*

**Sara J. Grossman** (she/her)

*Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, Bryn Mawr College*

**Agata Nguyen Chuong** (she/her)

*Architectural designer and researcher, Forensic Architecture*

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In “Confronting Colonial Injustice,” speakers gather to discuss how archival records play a part in the restitution effort and the fight for land-based justice. Potential topics include the relationships between cultural memory institutions and Indigenous knowledge as well as the role of archival records and data collection in investigating the impact of colonialism on the environment.



## LAND AS MEMORY

FEBRUARY 16, 1:00-2:15

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**Rose Miyonga** (she/her)

*PhD Candidate at the University of Warwick*

**Susan Webster** (she/her)

*Archaeology Archivist - UBC | Lab of Archaeology (LOA) | Department of Anthropology*

**Rami Zurayk** (he/him)

*Professor, American University of Beirut*

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“Land as Memory” considers the land as sites of memory, evidence, and record. Drawing from their unique research and relations with the land, speakers will discuss the land as recordkeeper as well as the land’s role in knowledge recovery and memory-making in post-conflict history.



# STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

FEBRUARY 16, 2:35–4:10

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**Amy Wickner** (she/they)

*Electronic Records Archivist & PhD Candidate, University of Maryland, College Park*

**Dana Murray** (she/her)

*Graduate Student at the University of Toronto*

**Eddie Buergler** (they/them)

*Graduate Student at the University of Alabama*

**Harry Hoy** (he/him)

*Library Intern, EPA–RTP Library. Master of Science in Information Science, 2022–2024. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

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During Student Presentations, archival and information studies students will present on their past, present, and planned projects and research. The presentation topics this year include archival preparedness for floods in North Carolina and risk assessment models; the psychological impact of extreme weather events on GLAM workers; the relationship between archival workers and climate advocacy; describing and digitizing records of the Cascade Pass revegetation program. Presentations in this session will take the form of ten-minute lightning talks followed by question-and-answer periods dedicated to each student presenter.



# SPEAKER PROFILES

ALPHABETICAL BY SURNAME

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## **Melissa Adams** (she/her)

*Librarian and Archivist, Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs*

Melissa Adams is the Librarian and Archivist at the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC). She is a member of the Nisga'a Nation from the House of Wisin Xbil'tkw of the Gisk'aast (Killerwhale) tribe. Her education background includes History, First Nations Studies and Archival Studies, and she completed the Aboriginal Training Program in Museum Practices at the Canadian Museum of History. She has previously worked at government, religious, educational and private libraries and archives.



## **Eddie Buergler** (they/them)

*Graduate Student at the University of Alabama*

Eddie Buergler is a first-year graduate student at the University of Alabama. Their professional interests include sustainability in archives, fostering equitable, reliable, and beneficial relationships with constituencies, and developing evaluative methods for archival practices.

## SPEAKER PROFILES

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### **Agata Nguyen Chuong** (she/her)

*Architectural designer and researcher, Forensic Architecture*

Agata Nguyen Chuong is a Polish/Vietnamese researcher with Forensic Architecture, based in London, UK. Agata's research focuses on environmental violence, land dispossession and extraction. A Royal College of Art graduate, she currently coordinates the long-term project on the Nama and Ovaherero genocide in today's Namibia.



### **Hannes Dempewolf** (he/him)

*(Speaking on behalf of CropTrust and the Svalbard Global Seed Vault project)*

*Chief strategic adviser, Senior Scientist at the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust)*

Hannes Dempewolf is the Crop Trust's Chief Strategic Adviser and in this role works at the interface of partnerships, resource mobilization, project development, science and policy. He is also the Crop Trust's focal point for the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. Before assuming his current role, he has spent more than a decade working for the Crop Trust in a number of positions, such as Director of External Affairs as and the Crop Trust's leader of the project "Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change: Collecting, Protecting and Preparing Crop Wild Relatives." Hannes studied Plant Science at the University of Edinburgh and the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh in Scotland and completed his PhD training in Botany at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. His scientific interest focuses on the evolution, maintenance and conservation of agrobiodiversity and the importance of such diversity for farming communities.

## SPEAKER PROFILES



### **Omar Ferwati** (he/him)

*Research Coordinator, Forensic Architecture*

Omar is the Research Coordinator at Forensic Architecture, developing and applying spatial methods for human rights investigations. His investigations have ranged from airstrikes and colonial violence in Palestine to environmental racism in Namibia. He trained as an architect in Canada and has worked at several architecture practices internationally. Omar previously taught at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture.



### **Simen Fjeld-Olsen** (he/him)

*Operations Manager at Piql and the Arctic World Archive*

Has been with Piql for six years working on the preserving the world's memory in the Arctic World Archive.



### **Sara J. Grossman** (she/her)

*Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, Bryn Mawr College*

Sara J. Grossman is Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies in the Johanna Alderfer Harris and William H. Harris, M.D Professorship in Environmental Studies at Bryn Mawr College. She has published a book of poems, *Let the House of Body Fall*, and her first academic monograph, *Immeasurable Weather*, was published by Duke University Press in August 2023. She works at the intersection of U.S. environmental history and creative praxis, utilizing historical knowledge to mobilize for just environmental futures.

## SPEAKER PROFILES

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### **Harry Hoy** (he/him)

*Library Intern, EPA-RTP Library. Master of Science in Information Science, 2022-2024. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Harry Hoy is a second year Master of Science in Information Science student at UNC Chapel Hill. Before starting the program he received a BA in linguistics from Boston College and managed the Conshohocken Free Library in Conshohocken, PA. Harry's research interests are at the intersection of critical library and archival practice, environmental justice, and decolonization.



### **Kim Lawson** (she/her)

*Research and Community Liaison Librarian, Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre (IRSHDC) at UBC*

Kim is a member of the Heiltsuk Nation, (Bella Bella, BC) and is interested in community and interpersonal relationships as a central element of Indigenous knowledge systems. Her Master's thesis, "Precious Fragments: First Nations Materials in Archives, Libraries and Museums," was written to acknowledge Indigenous cultural and knowledge professionals. She led the development of the "Our Homes are Bleeding" digital collection in order to pilot a digitization and media preservation program while she was Archivist/Librarian at the Union of BC Indian Chiefs; she expanded the Xwi7xwa Library media collection after it became a UBC Library branch. She is interested in safety and pedagogy in intergenerational and digital spaces.

## SPEAKER PROFILES

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### **Rose Miyonga** (she/her)

*PhD Candidate at the University of Warwick*

Rose Miyonga is a PhD candidate at the University of Warwick, where her research focuses on the making of histories and memories of the Mau Mau War in post-independence Kenya. Her current research is concerned with questions of archival silence, and sources that speak into the gap between government records and lived experience using participatory research methodologies, non-traditional archives, and oral histories.



### **Dana Murray** (she/her)

*Graduate Student at the University of Toronto*

Dana Murray is a cultural heritage professional currently working towards her PhD in Information at the University of Toronto. Her research is focused on the psychological impact of disasters on gallery, library, archive, and museum (GLAM) professionals, with a particular interest in the shared sense of professional duty in the GLAM sector.



## SPEAKER PROFILES

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### **Amanda Oliver** (she/her)

*Head of Archives and Special Collections at Wilfrid Laurier University*

Amanda Oliver is the Head of Archives and Special Collections at Wilfrid Laurier University, located on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabe, and Haudenosaunee peoples. She holds a Master of Library and Information Science, with a concentration in archives, from McGill University, and a Master of Arts in Preventive Conservation from Northumbria University. Her research interests include the impacts of climate change on Canadian archives and sustainable professional practice.



### **Susan Webster** (she/her)

*Archaeology Archivist – UBC | Lab of Archaeology (LOA) | Department of Anthropology*

Susan is the archivist at UBC's Lab of Archaeology Archives, which is an archaeological repository located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm* (Musqueam) people. She has a BA in Anthropology/Archaeology and is a graduate from UBC's School of Information. Susan has mixed ancestry with her father being from the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation – Treaty 6 Territory, and believes that it is imperative to acknowledge Indigenous knowledge systems and create systems that better reflect Indigenous epistemologies and local community needs through a collaborative community-centered approach. Susan is also interested in the practical implementation of oral history projects in memory institutions with an emphasis on oral history as testimony and addressing barriers to access within knowledge-based platforms and information sharing.

# SPEAKER PROFILES

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## **Amy Wickner** (she/they)

*Electronic Records Archivist & PhD Candidate,  
University of Maryland, College Park*

I'm a digital archivist and student living, working, and studying on traditional Piscataway land. My dissertation (which you'll hear about today) is about the impacts of climate and environment on archival work, and the many ways archival workers have responded.



## **Rami Zurayk** (he/him)

*Professor, American University of Beirut*

Rami Zurayk is a professor at the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences and the Interim Director of the Palestine Land Studies Center at the American University of Beirut. He was a member of the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) of the Committee of World Food Security (CFS), and a commissioner on the EAT-Lancet commission on sustainable diets from sustainable food systems. He is a founding member of the Arab Food Sovereignty Network. He has worked and written extensively on the Arab World, focusing on the political ecology of Arab food security and its linkages with the agrarian question. His work includes *Control Food, Control People: The Struggle for Food Security in Gaza* (with Ann Gough), *Food, Farming and Freedom: Sowing the Arab Spring and 2006: A War Diary*. For more information visit:

<https://www.aub.edu.lb/pages/profile.aspx?memberId=rzurayk>



# THANK YOU!

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We hope you enjoyed your time with us at this year's conference. We at the ACA@UBC have certainly enjoyed our time with you!

On behalf of the students at the UBC iSchool, we would like to thank all of the speakers for the generous gift of their time and for all the wonderful discussions we have had today. I would also like to thank my fellow student volunteers for the many hours they dedicated to fundraising, planning, facilitating, and moderating this event. We couldn't have done it without everyone's support and work.

A special thank you to Dr. Jennifer Douglas our faculty advisor, for her supportive guidance during the planning of the event.

The Conference would not be possible without generous support from the UBC iSchool, the Association of Canadian Archivists, the Archives Association of British Columbia, ARMA Vancouver, Artefactual, Lucidea, UBC Arts Co-op Program, and SFU Archives and Records Management.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your attendance and support. We hope you gained some new connections and insights today, and we are deeply grateful to everyone involved in this event for their thoughtful and sincere participation.

Sincerely,

Linnet Chappelka

ACA@UBC Coordinator 2023-2024

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Faculty Advisor: Jennifer Douglas

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