

Riverhood: histories across time, place, and waters

9-11 April, 2024

HARVARD
UNIVERSITY

PROGRAM

Convened by Katie Holmes, Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser Chair in Australian Studies

'Riverhood' is a nineteenth century word meaning the 'state of being a river'. But what makes a river? How has the idea of a river changed over time? Who decides and to what effect? With a particular focus on First Nations and settler-colonial relationships with rivers, this symposium brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars from Australia and North America, to engage with this idea of 'riverhood' and to explore the more-than-human histories and cultures of rivers across the Pacific and Atlantic worlds.

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3ID1IDd>

Tuesday April 9. Charles Warren Conference Centre. Basement, Robinson Hall, 32 Quincy St, Cambridge.

12.30pm

Welcome

12.45pm

Session 1: River Cultures I

Brittani Orona (UC Santa Cruz):

Klamath River Fish-Weirs: toward a Decolonial Future

Margaret Cook (Griffith University/La Trobe University):

Not Just Water: the contested spaces of the lower River Murray

Danielle Carney-Flakelar (Wayilwan Cultural Knowledge Holder, Dubbo, Australia): Cultural Ways of Caring for Country and Natural Waterways through Kinship Obligations

Chair: Daryle Rigney (University of Technology, Sydney)

2.45pm

Afternoon tea

3.05pm

Session 2: Colonial Currents

Erika Bsumek (University of Texas, Austin):

Contending with and Contextualizing Currents of Colonialism on the Colorado Plateau

Ruth Morgan (Australian National University):

Finding Time in the Barmah-Millewa Forest

Chair: Matthew Evenden (University of British Columbia)

4.30pm

Close

6.30pm

Symposium Dinner. 'Harvest', 44 Brattle St, Cambridge

Wednesday April 10. Charles Warren Conference Centre. Basement, Robinson Hall, 32 Quincy St, Cambridge.

9.00am

Session 3: River Rights, Relationships and Responsibilities I

In Conversation: *Aimée Craft (University of Ottawa), Brittany Luby (University of Guelph), Kabl Wilkerson (Harvard University)*

10.30am

Morning tea

11.00am

Session 4: River Rights, Relationships and Responsibilities II

Sue Jackson (presenting) (Griffith University) & Sangeetha Chandrashekeran (University of Melbourne):

The dark side of rivers as rights bearing entities in Australia's Murray-Darling Basin

Daryle Rigney (University of Technology, Sydney):

Indigenous Nation (re)Building as Murrundi, the River Murray

James Mestaz (Sonoma State University):

Hiak Vatwe and Zuaque: Yoreme River Defense in Northwest Mexico

Chair: Brittany Orona (UC Santa Cruz)

1.00pm

Lunch

1.45pm

Session 5: River Cultures II

Katie Holmes (Harvard University/La Trobe University):

Wasted Water or Water Wonderland? Imagining Hattah Lakes

Karen Twigg (La Trobe University):

'Decorated with feeding egrets': Water flows, birds and people at Hattah Lakes

Chair: Kathryn Newfont (University of Kentucky)

3.15pm

Afternoon tea

3.35pm

Session 6: Knowing Rivers

Lesley Head (University of Melbourne):

The work it takes to meander: how river scientists talk about rivers

Matthew Evenden (University of British Columbia):

Confluences: Rivers, history and community engagement in British Columbia

Chair: Sue Jackson (Griffith University)

5.00pm

Documentary screening: 'Diary of Travelling Rivers'

This documentary follows the journey of Maria in Colombia, a fisherwoman and artist, and Vanessa in Ecuador, an activist and artist. They are part of the Travelling Rivers initiative which aims to create a mapping movement that connects communities living along rivers, sharing their stories and bridging their contexts and experiences.

5.30 pm

Close

Thursday April 11, History Conference Room, Rm 125 Robinson Hall, 32 Quincy St, Cambridge.

9.00am

Session 7: Riverhoods

Kathryn Newfont (University of Kentucky):

Mountain-Rooted Riverhoods: A Watershed Walk through Forests and Floods in Appalachian History

Jessica Urwin (Australian National University):

'Leaky Places' and Settler Riverhood in and around the Barmah Forest

Christopher Morris (University of Texas at Arlington):

Riverhood Comes and Goes: Alabama's Saugahatchee Creek, 1870-2020

Chair: Erika Bsumek (University of Texas, Austin)

11.00am	Morning tea
11.30am	Next steps, wrap up
12.30pm	Lunch & Close



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