Dr. Diana Lewis: Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Health Governance

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate Dr. Diana (Dee) Lewis (A SHARED Future Co-Director) on her Canada Research Chair appointment in Indigenous Environmental Health Governance! The Canada Research Chairs Program supports and recognizes outstanding researchers in various fields across Canadian universities to foster excellence in research and training.

As a Canada Research Chair, Dee will continue to work with community collaborators to develop Indigenous value-based environmental health frameworks that intricately tie human health to the health of the land, water, animals, and plants - bringing a transformative opportunity to advance One Health research within Indigenous worldviews. You can read more about Dee’s appointment here. Congratulations Dee - we look forward to seeing your research projects flourish and contribute to the health and well-being of our communities and environments.
Postdoctoral Fellowship

The A SHARED Future team is pleased to announce a postdoctoral fellowship opportunity funded by A SHARED Future’s Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Environment and Health Signature Initiative Grant.

The position will be held in the Health, Communities, and Environment Research Lab (HEC Lab), in the traditional territories of the lək̓ʷəŋən speaking peoples: the Esquimalt, the Songhees and the WSÁNEĆ First Nations at the University of Victoria (British Columbia, Canada).

As A SHARED Future is approaching its completion date and we are focusing our energies on sharing what we have learned, we are broadly conceiving of this opportunity as an end-of-grant knowledge mobilization Postdoctoral Fellowship. Among the many opportunities associated with this fellowship, the successful candidate will play a key role in the development of an academic book proposal for an edited collection in collaboration with the A SHARED Future Programmatic Steering Committee.

The objective of this opportunity is to support an excellent postdoctoral researcher who will, in addition to the above, bring original ideas for their own research related to the general theme of A SHARED Future’s objectives. The successful candidate may also wish to align with the research priorities of Dr. Castleden’s Impact Chair. The goal of the Chair in Transformative Governance for Planetary Health is to contribute to shifting our societies to better reconcile human health with the natural systems on which we depend by bridging academia, communities, and governments.

The successful candidate will work under the co-supervision of Dr Heather Castleden, President’s Impact Chair in Transformative Governance for Planetary Health, at the University of Victoria and Dr Diana Lewis, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Health Impact Assessment, at the University of Guelph. Dr Castleden and Dr Lewis are the Co-Directors of A SHARED Future.

This is an academic research role supported by research training and development under the supervision and direction of Dr Castleden and Dr Lewis, and in collaboration with a team of academics and Indigenous community leaders through connection with A SHARED Future. There may be an opportunity to teach or co-teach with Dr. Castleden on a course titled “Social-Ecological Justice and Action for Planetary Health” in the 2023 Winter semester and/or a Field School on “Transformative Governance for Planetary Health” in the Spring semester.

Qualifications:
- Preference will be given to applicants who identify as Indigenous Scholars
- Lived experience working in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples
- PhD in hand (or a defense date scheduled by December 2022) in Geography, Environmental Studies, Sustainable Energy, Political Science, Indigenous Studies, Gender Studies, or a cognate discipline
- Experience working on interdisciplinary teams and/or on community-based research projects
- A promising trajectory in research and publication; a publication record in areas related to the above specified research interests and field areas would be ideal
- Exceptional written and oral communication skills in English
- Excellent research abilities, organizational skills, ability to work independently
- Depth of knowledge is essential in the following areas: critical social theory, anti-colonial theory, decolonial theory, Indigenous theories, Indigenous methodologies
- Depth of knowledge is preferred in the following areas: energy policy, renewable energy, sustainable energy, a just transition, and climate justice
- Summer residency is flexible, local residency required by Sept 1, 2022. Some travel is required.

Candidate applications should include:
- A two-page cover letter
- An up-to-date CV
- Names and contact information for three academic references
- Applicants who self-identify as Indigenous may substitute one of their three academic references for an Indigenous community/organizational reference
- A sample publication, relevant to the position
- A one-page research interest statement

Interested parties please submit your application package to Dr. Castleden’s Research Manager, Dr. Megan Harvey at meganodh@uvic.ca

Remuneration/Salary: $50,000 CDN
Preferred start date: July 15, 2022
Duration: 12 months
Location: University of Victoria
Summer Gathering 2022

We look forward to welcoming participants to Global Interconnectedness for Sustainable Energy Futures, a summer gathering taking place at Windhorse Farm, on the unceded territories of the Mi’kmaq, July 18-22. Thank you to all of those who have replied to invitations - we are slated to have over 20 attendees from across the A SHARED Future network. We look forward to spending time collaborating and sharing with you all!

As we enter year five of A SHARED Future, with the urgency of the climate crisis being felt across the globe, our focus falls to the future. As such, we are bringing together Indigenous leaders and champions in renewable energy to share research findings and knowledge outputs. Our objectives for this Gathering are to reflect on and share experiences from A SHARED Future’s programmatic outputs, as well as to have generative conversations about the core themes of the research program. These themes include: ethical/relational challenges and opportunities, CR-GBA, co-learning through institutional ethnography, and colonial barriers to Indigenous renewable energy projects. The gathering will also promote trainee professional development through research presentations, workshops, and networking opportunities.

For those unable to attend, we will provide an update from the gathering in our next newsletter.

Community-Based Research Toolkit

Tiffany Walsh, Senior Policy Advisor at the Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) and A SHARED Future International Advisory Committee member, recently shared with us NWAC’s Community-Based Research Toolkit. The toolkit builds on extensive work NWAC has already undertaken with support of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to support Indigenous organizations as partners in research projects.

The objectives of the toolkit is to offer “guiding information for NWAC health team members on where to start and what to expect when facilitating, or coordinating, community-based research. Included are critical roadmaps, support with common challenges, templates, frameworks, and definitions specific to our NWAC research environment...With these tools, we aim to lead more intentional, comprehensive, intersectional, and culturally-grounded research to advance health priorities of Indigenous women, two-spirit, and gender-diverse people.

You can review the toolkit in full here.
Mitacs Globalink Interns

Heather Castleden is pleased to welcome two interns into the HEC Lab through the Mitacs Globalink Internship Program! Ivana and Brenda will be present at the A SHARED Future Summer Gathering to provide assistance throughout the event. They will also be contributing to various research tasks in the HEC Lab throughout the summer and early fall term. Welcome, Ivana and Brenda, we look forward to working with you!

Ivana Verdín

Ivana is an International Relations student at Anahuac University in Mexico City. She is currently an intern at the HEC Lab for the Mitacs Globalink program, which connects outstanding international students with research laboratories in Canada. Ivana has a great passion for various disciplines of International Relations, particularly environmental studies. She is interested in exploring interdisciplinary studies and discovering how Indigenous Peoples can contribute and teach nature and community-based solutions to combat the environmental hazards caused by the Anthropocene.

Brenda González

Brenda studies International Relations at the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education in Querétaro, Mexico. She is very interested in several aspects of the social sciences, but especially in learning about cultural diversity, identity, and postcolonialism. As an intern, Brenda wants to contribute to the HEC Lab on their mission for the reconciliation between knowledge systems and achieving a more sustainable future. Besides doing research, she enjoys listening to music, going hiking, watching movies, and the performing arts.
Upcoming Events

All-in: Co-Creating Knowledge for Justice Conference, October 26–28, Santa Cruz

The All-in: Co-Creating Knowledge for Justice Conference, co-presented by the Institute for Social Transformation at UC Santa Cruz and the Urban Research Based Action Network, brings together community-based practitioners and researchers, undergraduate and graduate students, community members and organizations, foundation program officers, artists, and activists to share stories, strategies, practices and solutions for action. The conference is organized in part by Ron Glass, member of our International Advisory Committee. You can find out more information about the conference and register here. A delegation from A SHARED Future has been accepted to organize a 90-minute panel. Heather Castleden, Dee Lewis, Naatoii’lhpiaii (Melissa Quesnelle) and Tanna Pirie-Wilson will be in attendance. We hope to see you there!

Energy Research and Social Science, June 20–23, University of Manchester

Energy and Climate Transformations: 3rd International Conference on Energy Research & Social Science is taking place at the University of Manchester June 20-23. The conference will highlight and explore the grand societal challenges arising at the interface of global energy transformations on the one hand, and ongoing climate mitigation and adaptation efforts on the other. You can learn more about the conference and register here.

In the News

Dr. Sarah Rotz awarded the Julian M. Szeicz Award for Early Career Achievement

Congratulations to Research Associate Dr. Sarah Rotz (York University) for being awarded the Julian M. Szeicz Award for Early Career Achievement at the Canadian Association of Geographers Annual General Meeting on June 2. The award is presented in recognition of research achievement and career potential by an early career stage Canadian geographer. Congratulations Sarah!

Revitalizing Indigenous wildfire practices in British Columbia

Over the past five years, B.C. has experienced the three worst wildfire seasons ever recorded. Since 2019, Gathering Voices has worked with the Yunesit’in and Xeni Gwet’in First Nations, two of the six Tɑ̲l̓ihqɑ̲t’in Nations, to reignite the practice of cultural burns in B.C. In recognition for this work, their Tɑ̲l̓ihqɑ̲t’in Wildfire Management initiative has received the 2022 Land Use and Conservation Land Award from the Real Estate Foundation of BC. You can read more about the project here.

Indigenous clean energy projects funded on Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands

Ten Indigenous communities on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands will join B.C.’s clean-energy sector with local projects following support from the Province. This will help develop clean-energy projects driven and owned by Indigenous communities in areas such as solar, ocean thermal, wind energy, biomass, run-of-river hydroelectric power, energy-efficiency planning and other clean energy-related areas. You can read more about the projects here.

Kitasoo Xai’xais First Nation announce Gitdisdzu Lugyeks Marine Protected Area

On June 22, Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada, Chief Doug Neasloss of the Kitasoo Xai’xais First Nation announced the Gitdisdzu Lugyeks Marine Protected Area, a 33.5 square kilometer ocean protection zone in their traditional territories near Laredo Sound, 500km north of Vancouver. Tired of working with the Federal Government for 18 years and seeing no results, the Nation decided to take marine protection into their own hands. You can read the full story here.