IMPACT REPORT

Centre for Climate Justice

Research | Community | Mobilization

LAND *ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

We respectfully acknowledge that the UBC Vancouver and Okanagan campuses are situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓-speaking xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) peoples and the nsyilxcən speaking Syilx Okanagan Nation and their peoples, who have been stewards and caretakers of these lands since time immemorial.

The Centre for Climate Justice is committed to ongoing trust building through reciprocal learning and working collaboratively toward a climate just future.

Reconciliation Pole, Hereditary Chief 7idansuu (James Hart), Haida. Photo: UBC

MESSAGE FROM THE ***PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC***

From its inception in 2021, the Centre for Climate Justice has recognized that the climate emergency is also a crisis of inequality. The CCJ advances research, education, and action grounded in justice, linking academic excellence with the lived realities of those most affected by climate change.

The important work highlighted within these pages reflects UBC's commitments to inclusion, reconciliation, and research that sparks transformative pathways. Through the CCJ's leadership, UBC continues to shape not only how we understand a warming world, but how to meet this moment with solutions that secure a thriving, equitable future for all.

In commitment to our shared future,

Gage Averill,
Provost and Vice President Academic

MESSAGE FROM THE ***DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS***

The Faculty of Arts prides itself in supporting cutting-edge research into the challenges affecting members of our local community as well as those of global resonance. The CCJ exemplifies how research, creativity, and community engagement can drive meaningful change in the face of global crises.

Over the past four years, the CCJ has generated critical research, convened popular events, and laid the groundwork for ongoing impact into issues of pressing significance to us all. The work presented here demonstrates not only UBC's leadership in climate research, but also our shared determination to build more equitable, just, and sustainable world for generations to come.

With partnership and purpose,

Clare Haru Crowston,
Dean of the Faculty of Arts

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What is Climate Justice?

Climate change impacts are inequitable and disproportionate; the most vulnerable communities often bear the highest burden.

As the planet warms due to anthropogenic greenhouse gases, the impacts of climate change require mitigation and adaptation. Inherent societal inequities (e.g., race, gender, and class disparities) become amplified, and those without resources to lessen the impact suffer the consequences.

Climate Justice research aims to understand how climate change interacts with social dynamics, and provides recommendations for legal, political, and community-based mitigation and adaptation measures.

ABOUT ***THE CCJ***

At the CCJ, we work to understand climate change impacts through the lens of social inequity to facilitate systemic change.

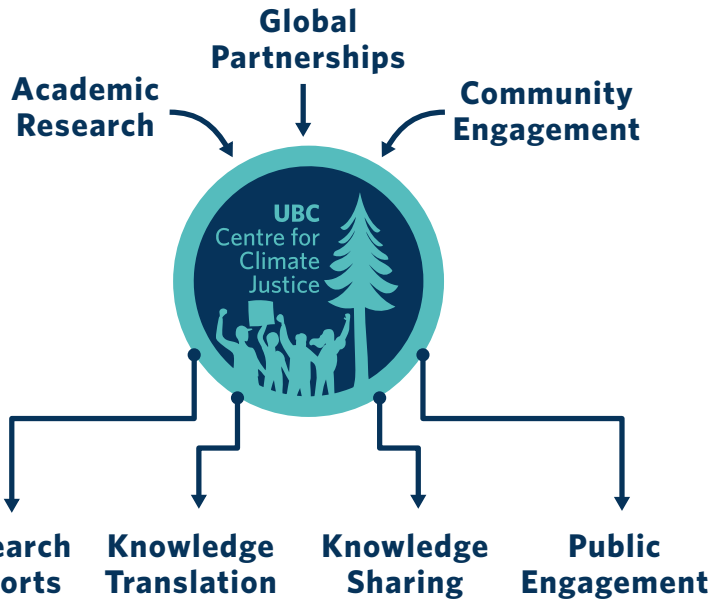
Through collaborative, interdisciplinary, and community-engaged work, CCJ generates knowledge that supports transformative action.

OUR ***GOALS***

We connect diverse research streams, foster collaboration, and communicate knowledge that empowers action.

Leveraging the world-class resources of UBC, we work to:

- Facilitate climate justice policy and research, and connect related issues with researchers and communities.
- Engage with communities, turning their needs into research that leads to changes in policy, politics, and economics.
- Mobilize climate justice knowledge to increase public awareness and improve decision-making and advocacy efforts.



MESSAGE FROM OUR ***CO-DIRECTORS***

At the CCJ, we are mindful of the deepening crises we collectively face. The climate emergency continues to escalate, intersecting with ongoing systems of colonialism, racial capitalism, and ecological harm. To address these challenges, the CCJ's reach extends from the local to the international. From projects on the implications of the heat dome on marginalized BC communities, to combatting misinformation about wildfires; from supporting Indigenous speakers on the connection between global rights and climate, to building partnerships with research centres in the US, Aotearoa/New Zealand and Argentina, we maximize our research mobilization to support communities that have a stake in the ongoing fight.

From January 2024 to August 2025, the CCJ convened 67 events, engaging over 6,100 participants in person – with many more online – in critical conversations that challenge dominant narratives and elevate community-based knowledge. These gatherings have brought together scholars, students, activists, Elders, and policymakers, creating space for reflection, debate, and collaboration. We do not take these spaces for granted; they are the result of sustained effort, trust-building, and a shared commitment to justice.

The CCJ has issued 12 reports advancing policy reform and climate action. Our 60 faculty affiliates and 27 postdoctoral and graduate affiliates have produced 115 publications in collaboration with more than 30 community partners across our five research streams. We remain grounded in the understanding that climate justice cannot be achieved through technical solutions or institutional reform alone, and our work speaks to the networks we continue to build to bring people into the climate movement. Our work continues to confront systems of violence and exploitation, and commits to focusing on those most impacted.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this work together. Through our collective efforts, we are building a more just and sustainable world for all.

With gratitude and solidarity,

Naomi Klein & Carol Liao

NAOMI KLEIN

Co-Director, Public Engagement

UBC Professor of Climate Justice and Associate Professor of Geography in the UBC Faculty of Arts. She is an award-winning journalist, columnist for *The Guardian*, and *New York Times* bestselling author of nine books that have been translated into 30 languages.

CAROL LIAO

Co-Director, Academic

Associate Professor in UBC Allard School of Law, UBC Sauder Distinguished Fellow of the Dhillon Centre for Business Ethics, and Chair of the Canada Climate Law Initiative. She has been recognized as one of Canada's Clean50 and Canada's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers.

OUR **STAFF**

Amy Harris | Senior Research Manager

Amy Harris is a skilled research manager and climate communication scholar. Originally from the United Kingdom, Amy has lived in Vancouver for 15 years and completed her PhD at Simon Fraser University before joining the CCJ. Amy sees the need for creating real impactful agency as crucial for engaging publics who don't see the climate crisis as a priority.

Kendra Jewell | Housing Research Project Manager

Kendra Jewell is a researcher and project manager with roots in environmental justice and anthropology, and joins the CCJ through the support of the New Frontiers in Research Fund. Kendra grew up as a settler on traditional Kumeyaay territory and studied at UCLA before completing a PhD at UBC in 2023. They have researched and written an ethnography analyzing climate change impacts and cultures of denial in Coastal Florida.

Evgeni Matveev | Communications & Events Coordinator

Evgeni Matveev is a seasoned science communicator with an Master's of Science in Marine Biology and a background in graphic design, videography, writing, and event management. He is passionate about creating strategic environmental content that resonates with people's values and unites communities towards viable action.

Margareta Kurnotova | Administrative & Program Assistant

Margareta Kurnotova is an expert administrative and communications professional with a Master's Degree in Environmental Sciences. Originally from Slovakia, she moved to Vancouver in 2020 and has supported leadership teams in academic settings, coordinated events and communications, and streamlined financial and operational processes.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The CCJ Executive Committee guides the strategic direction of our work. Experts representing a wide array of research fields allow us to facilitate high-quality interdisciplinary research and translate that knowledge to the wider public.

Mohammed Rafi Arefin
Assistant Professor,
Geography

Gastón Gordillo
Professor,
Anthropology

Brenna Bhandar
Professor,
Law

Andrew Jorgenson
Professor,
Sociology

Candis Callison
Professor,
SPPGA and CIS; CRC in Indigenous Journalism, Media, and Public Discourse

Jarrett Martineau
Head Curator,
Chan Centre for Performing Arts

Jessica Dempsey
Professor,
Geography

Onyx Sloan Morgan
Assistant Professor,
Community, Culture and Global Studies

Amanda Giang
Associate Professor;
Mechanical Engineering and IRES; CRC in Environmental Modelling for Policy

Bernard Perley
Professor,
Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies (CIS)

FACULTY AFFILIATES

A core mission of the CCJ is to connect diverse researchers for interdisciplinary projects that advance climate justice. If you would like to become a faculty affiliate, please see details below:
climatejustice.ubc.ca/work-with-us/faculty-affiliation/

UBC Vancouver

APPLIED SCIENCE

Community and Regional Planning
Holly Caggiano
Kelly J. Clifton
Theodore Lim
Maggie Low

Mechanical Engineering
Alexandra Tavasoli

Nursing
Jennifer Baumbusch

ARTS

Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies
Tim Frandy
Perry Mendoza

Coordinated Arts Program
Anne Stewart

Critical Indigenous Studies
Pasang Sherpa*

English Language and Literatures
Kimberly Bain
Dallas Hunt
Laura Moss
Kavita Philip
Jordy Rosenberg
Elise Stickles

Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice
Jasbir K. Puar

Philosophy
Kimberley Brownlee

Geography
Jemima Baada
Avi Lewis
Geraldine Pratt
Juanita Sundberg

Political Science
Glen Coulthard*

Public Policy and Global Affairs
M.V. Ramana
Sara Shneiderman

Creative Writing
Alix Ohlin

Information
Lisa Nathan

Journalism, Writing and Media
Kimberly Richards

Sociology
Emily Kennedy
Renisa Mawani
Ethan Raker

EDUCATION

Curriculum & Pedagogy
Sandra Scott

Educational Studies
Petra Mikulan
Sharon Stein
Robert VanWynsberghe

Kinesiology
Liv Yoon

FORESTRY

Forest Resources Management
Lorien Nesbitt

MEDICINE

Pediatrics
Srinivas Murthy

Population and Public Health
Daniel Steel

LAW

Sara Ghebremusse
Jocelyn Stacey
Stepan Wood

SCIENCE

Resources, Environment, and Sustainability
Evan Bowness
Leila Harris*
Hannah Wittman*

UBC Okanagan

ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Community, Culture, and Global Studies
Adeniyi Asiyanbi
Mary Stockdale

English and Cultural Studies
Astrida Neimanis*

Health and Exercise Sciences
Philip Ainslie

*** cross appointed with other departments**

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

COLLABORATION

87
Faculty, Postdoctoral, and Graduate Researchers

30
Community Partners

8
Faculties

26
Departments

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

67
Events (Since 2024)

12
Reports Published

105
Media Pieces

20
YouTube Videos

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

9.8K
Social Media Followers

2.2K
Newsletter Subscribers

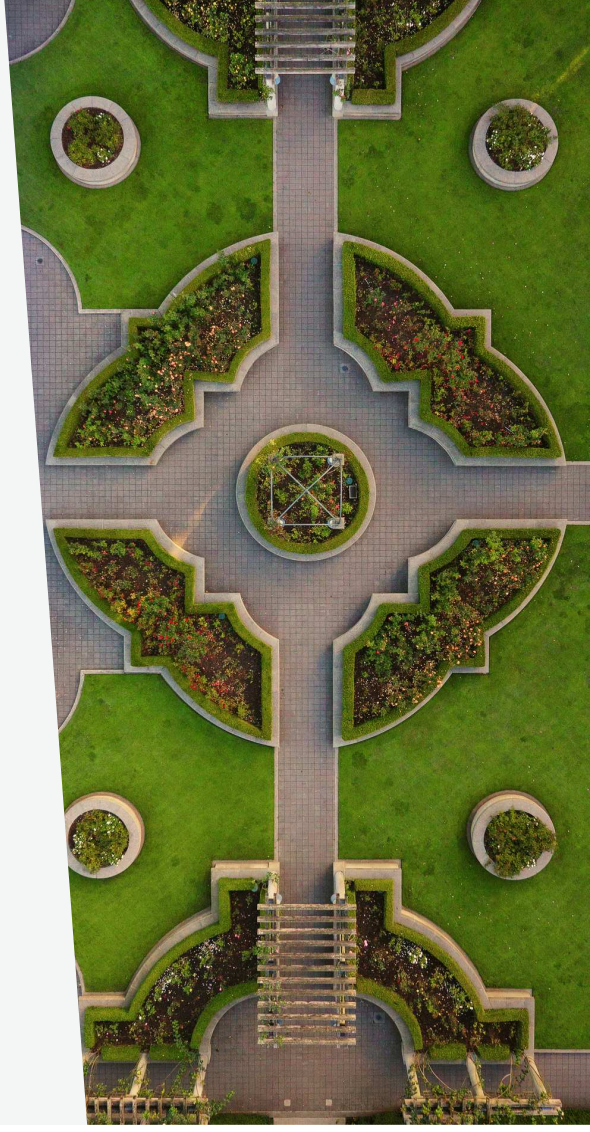
6.1K
In-Person Event Attendees

4M
YouTube Views

RESEARCH STREAMS

The CCJ supports interdisciplinary research mobilization by engaging with community partners to foster knowledge sharing that meets the demands of climate justice.

- **Indigenous Climate Research and Action**
- **Climate Just Housing, Transport, Energy, and Infrastructure**
- **Reparative Green Economies, Democracies, and Solidarity**
- **Conspiracy Culture, Authoritarianism, and Ecofascism**
- **Social and Institutional Drivers of Ecological Crisis**



**Names of faculty affiliates, executive committee members, and staff are highlighted in theme colours*

Indigenous Climate Research and Action

Indigenous self-determination is essential for a just future. This stream focuses on supporting Indigenous leadership in facilitating systemic change and leading justice-oriented climate action. We concentrate on every policy arena that touches on climate change to ensure that Indigenous perspectives, communities, and worldviews shape the development and implementation of climate-related initiatives and policies.

International Convening on Indigenous Forest-Based Carbon Offsetting

This multi-day forum focused on how Indigenous values and perspectives can (and do) guide forest-based carbon offsetting practices. Attendees included academic researchers and representatives from First Nations, Indigenous communities, and Tribes from Canada, Mexico, and the US.

IndigenEYEZ and the FEELedLab

IndigenEYEZ is a Syilx First Nation-led initiative dedicated to strengthening connections between Syilx peoples and neighbours to respond to systemic climate injustice. The FEELed Lab led by Astrida Neimanis hosted a workshop by IndigenEYEZ with Onyx Sloan Morgan and Carol Liao joining. The event focused on place-based climate justice, Indigenous-led methodologies, and the power of building relationships to shape a sustainable, reciprocal future.

Indigenous Climate Action at the Speed of Consent

John P. Bell Global Indigenous Rights Lecture Series

Co-hosted with the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies, this annual lecture series features Indigenous scholars and activists from around the world. In this thought-provoking event featuring Kyle Whyte of the University of Michigan (pictured with Bernard Perley), attendees explored the complex relationship between climate action and Indigenous rights.

Sacrifice and Salvation in the Indigenous World

John P. Bell Global Indigenous Rights Lecture Series

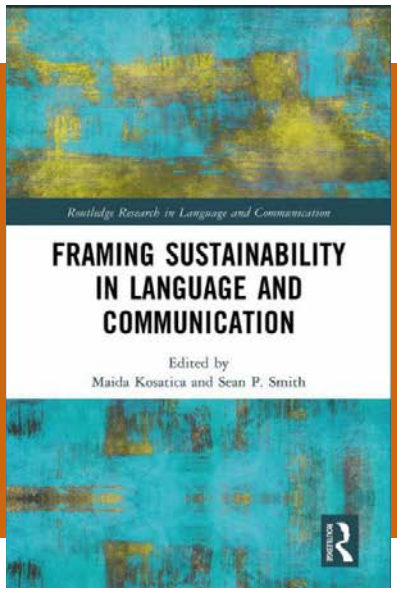
As part of the annual lecture series, 'The Woman Who Became a Deer: Sacrifice and Salvation in the Indigenous World' by anthropologist and director of the UCSC Center for South Asian Studies, Dolly Kikon, explored stories from the Naga world, reflecting on culture, sustainability, and the challenges of extractive regimes and structural violence.

Shaping Climate Justice through Indigenous Knowledge

Jeannette Armstrong, Syilx Okanagan scholar, and Christine Winter, Maori climate justice expert from New Zealand, sat down with Naomi Klein to discuss how Indigenous knowledge can guide climate justice solutions. The event was broadcast to Syilx Okanagan territory and community discussions were hosted at UBC Okanagan campus.

Indigenous Knowledge Engagement in IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

Led by Pasang Sherpa, this project explores how Indigenous knowledge is incorporated into the United Nations IPCC AR6 climate assessments. It finds that while there is more inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in the latest report, engagement remains limited and varies across different chapters. This research, along with two public-facing summaries, was released at COP29, in partnership with the International Indigenous Forum on Climate Change.



Rethinking Sustainability through Indigenous Language Futures

A report by Bernard Perley and Henrietta Black outlines how a majority of endangered languages that are estimated by experts to become extinct by the end of this century are Indigenous. The colonial introduction of invasive species of plants, animals, pathogens, and microbes, as well as ideational concepts and ideas, have rendered traditional practices unsustainable in colonial worlds. Although Indigenous communities are working towards reinscribing and rearticulating their ancestral voices in multimodal worldmaking projects, success depends upon rethinking the terms of sustainability not in colonial terms, but in Indigenous terms.

Silence is killing all of us. An overlooked aspect of ecological disasters since Rachel Carson's Silent Spring in 1962 is the silencing of Indigenous languages. Today's predominant sustainability imaginaries will not save us. We need to re-think sustainability through the revitalization of Indigenous languages.

- Bernard Perley

Climate Just Housing, Transport, Energy, and Infrastructure

Extreme weather events made worse and more frequent by climate change are exacerbating housing and infrastructure precarity in many parts of the world, including BC. During the 2021 heat dome – the deadliest weather event in Canadian history – almost all of the 619 deaths occurred at home or in a hotel, with the elderly, disabled, and poor disproportionately impacted.

The immense social investment required to reinvent our built environment so that everyone can survive and thrive constitutes an ambitious and wide-ranging opportunity to transform our societies. This stream co-develops research and policy approaches with our community partners to transform our critical infrastructures, while redressing intersecting inequities.

Extreme Temperature Services and 'Right to Cool' Knowledge Exchange

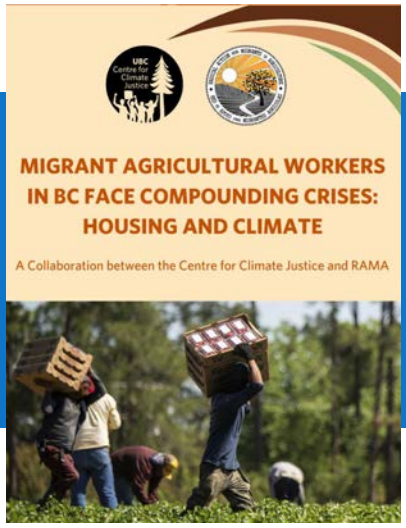
The CCJ's 'Right to Cool' Knowledge Exchange was hosted with the UBC School of Kinesiology, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, and South Vancouver Neighbourhood House. Led by Liv Yoon and Rachel Stern, the event focused on addressing the impacts of extreme heat on housing and health. Researchers, policymakers, and community leaders came together to develop strategies for ensuring vulnerable communities have access to adequate cooling solutions.

Too Hot to Think Small: The Case for a Right to Cool in British Columbia

The 'Right to Cool' Report, authored by Liv Yoon, Rafi Arefin, Kendra Jewell, and Geraldine Pratt, makes the case for a transformative, rights-based approach to extreme heat in BC. Drawing on the lived experiences of renters, seniors, migrant workers, people with disabilities, and low-income communities, this report calls for more than technical fixes or temporary programs and offers actionable policy recommendations for municipal and provincial governments.

The stakes are high and the task is urgent. If we're not careful, existing patterns will lead to a future where only those able to rent and buy climate-adapted housing will stay cool. If we don't act, the fault lines of social inequities will be felt more and more viscerally.

-from 'Too Hot to Think Small' report

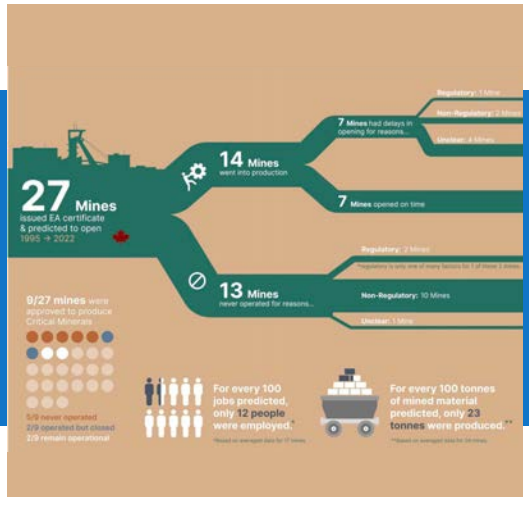


Migrant Agricultural Workers in BC Face Compounding Crises: Housing and Climate

A collaborative report, authored by Rafi Arefin, Fernanda Novoa, Laura Prada, Geraldine Pratt, and Isabel Siu-Zmuidzinas, highlights the intersecting crises of housing and climate faced by migrant agricultural workers in BC. Conducted through a pilot research project with the CCJ and Radical Action with Migrants in Agriculture (RAMA), the study sheds light on the extreme living conditions faced by workers in the Okanagan region and calls for urgent action to improve housing standards, enforce legal protections for migrant workers, and provide pathways to permanent residency.

Staying Cool: Experiences and Challenges Using Cooling Centres in Metro Vancouver

As British Columbia contends with increasingly hot summers, community cooling spaces open to anyone are increasingly important. This report, authored by Rachel Stern and Liv Yoon, shares the experiences and challenges of those who use or choose not to use cooling centres, and provides recommendations for local governments and non-profits for improving access to cool spaces.



Does Regulation Delay Mines? A Timeline & Economic Benefit Audit of BC Mines

This report authored by Rosemary Collard, Jessica Dempsey, Youssef Al Bouchi, and Nathan Bawaan, investigates whether regulation has delayed mining projects and how much economic benefit mines have delivered in BC. Findings suggest economic underperformance and mine delays after Environmental Assessment are common, with delays typically resulting from economic factors, not government regulations.

Partnership Development Grant Awarded

The CCJ was awarded a three-year Partnership Development Grant focusing on cross-border collaborations for climate justice in the US and Canada. The grant will be led by Carol Liao with Amy Harris, Rafi Arefin, Brenna Bhandar, Jessica Dempsey, Kavita Philip, and the Climate and Community Institute in Los Angeles. By creating opportunities for collective strategy and meaning-making among movement actors and researchers, the CCJ will chart common ground and diagnose opportunities for political and narrative change.

Housing Justice is Climate Justice Podcast

The compounding crises of extreme heat and inadequate housing are exposing and intensifying long-standing inequalities. This limited-series podcast dives into these challenges by following Margaret, a BC resident, who is currently navigating the intersecting challenges of housing and climate change. Podcast content is based on and influenced by the research of Rafi Arefin and Rona MacNicol.

Reparative Green Economies, Democracies, and Solidarity

We promote international solidarity in the climate movement by highlighting pressing intersections of climate change, authoritarianism, and human rights, based on an understanding that no form of democratic justice can be won without robust political freedom and solidarity. We commit to educating the next generation of climate activists.

Our work in this stream enlivens and cultivates novel and reemergent institutional forms of democracy that are more equitable and sustainable. We identify pathways for essential economic transformation including increasing climate jobs and enabling just transitions away from fossil fuels, reforms to the international monetary and financial systems, and reparations and economic redistribution

Building 'Build Back Better' Back Better: Inflation Reduction Act Impacts

The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), passed by the Biden Administration, marked the largest federal investment in climate justice in US history. More recently, second Trump administration began rolling back key climate protections and freezing billions in unallocated IRA funds. This report — authored by Tova Gaster and supervised by Katie McChesney and M.V. Ramana — reflects on the IRA's mixed legacy. Drawing on insights from experiences of organizers, planners, and nonprofits working to implement IRA programs, this report highlights both the potential and the limitations of the policy — and reinforces the urgent need for future climate action to be equitable, accessible, and politically resilient.

Integrating and Mobilizing Climate Justice in Spaces and Times of Dissonance

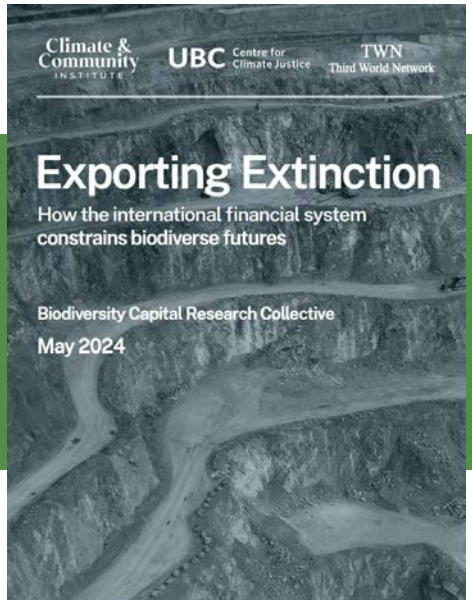
The workshop led by Astrida Neimanis and Onyx Sloan Morgan aimed to bridge the emotional disconnect many feel between their daily work and the world's crises, fostering a sense of solidarity and collective action. Researchers, students, and activists gathered at the FEELed Lab where they collaboratively created zines, posters, and postcards to address everything from Wet'suwet'en pipeline protests to Gaza. The event transformed isolation into connection, offering a space for healing, solidarity, and shared purpose in the fight for justice. The zines and materials were distributed to amplify these collective voices.

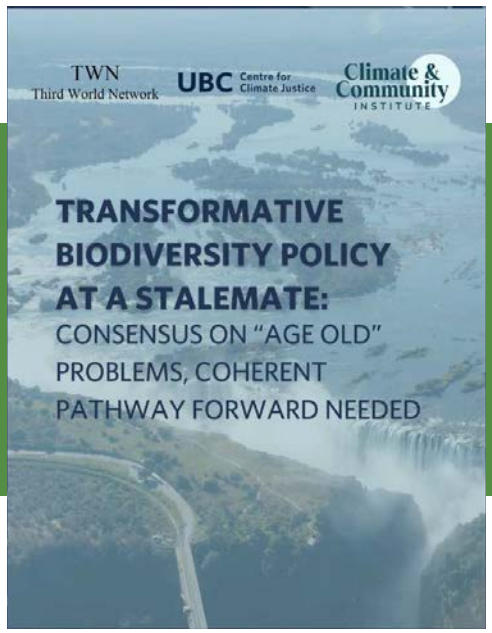
A Land Acknowledgment in a Different Key: Palestine, Solidarity and the Disruption of the Liberal Script

Rather than the exception to an otherwise progressive intellectual environment in North American — and specifically Canadian— universities, the suppression of speech related to Palestine reveals the racial limits of a settler-colonial liberal politics of acknowledgment and reconciliation. Tracing the oppositional functions of the land acknowledgment, this article by Brenna Bhandar exposes the political limits of a liberal racial order, which is explicitly challenged by expressions of solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for liberation.

Exporting Extinction: How the International Financial System Constrains Biodiverse Futures

This report, authored by Jessica Dempsey, Audrey Irvine-Broque, Tova Gaster, Lorah Steichen, Patrick Bigger, Azul Carolina Duque, Amelia Linett, George Porto Ferreira, and Nicole Kaechele, explores how global financial pressures drive biodiversity loss by supporting extractive industries like mining, oil, and agriculture. Developed by the Biodiversity Capital Research Collective in collaboration with the CCJ, Third World Network, and Climate & Community Institute, the report uses case studies from five Global South countries to show how international financial institutions, like the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, push governments to prioritize resource extraction to maintain financial stability.





Transformative Biodiversity Policy at a Stalemate: Consensus on "Age Old" Problems, Coherent Pathway Forward Needed

This study, with contributing authors Jessica Dempsey, Lorah Steichen, and Audrey Irvine-Broque, engages biodiversity policymakers and advocates in focus group discussions on the findings of the Exporting Extinction report. The report was a collaborative effort by the CCJ, Climate & Community Institute, and Third World Network, which convened five focus groups with biodiversity policy and movement experts to better understand practitioners' perspectives on the barriers to and opportunities for systemic international political-economic change.

BC Atlas of Disaster

This project, involving Ethan Raker and Jocelyn Stacey, aims to address the lack of a comprehensive spatial assessment of climate disaster risks and social vulnerabilities in BC, which is affected by extreme weather events like heat waves, coastal flooding, and wildfires. Using a model adapted from the US-based Rebuild by Design initiative, the project creates an atlas mapping disasters and vulnerabilities, offering valuable insights into environmental and social risks for academics, policymakers, and community organizations.

ANOHNI & Naomi Klein in Conversation

In this event, hosted at the Chan Centre for Performing Arts, Mercury Prize-winning musician ANOHNI and Naomi Klein discussed survival, grief, and the importance of emotional authenticity in the fight for climate justice. Their conversation emphasized the need for new ceremonies and collective action to respond to environmental crises.

If slavery and colonialism built the world and its current basic scheme of social injustice, the proper task of social justice is no smaller: it is, quite literally, to remake the world.

- Olúfémi O. Táíwò

Conspiracy Culture, Authoritarianism, and Ecofascism

This research stream examines the rapid rise of far-right politics and its intersections with climate justice. By situating contemporary far-right movements within the longer histories of global fascism and colonialism, this work analyzes how far-right actors are responding to climate change across local, national, and international scales, and reveals the underlying narrative across borders.

We assess the pathways by which climate (dis)information moves among the far-right groups and actors to mainstream avenues, and how this can influence provincial/state, national, and international climate policy. Through this work we operationalize our insights with policy recommendations that can advance more democratic and equitable responses to a changing climate.

Feelings Don't Care About Your Facts: Hurricanes & Fires in the Age of Conspiracy

In this webinar, with over 800 attendees, Naomi Klein, Kendra Jewell, Chris Russill, and Erin Blondeau explored how emotional responses to extreme weather events often fuel conspiracy theories that distract from the reality of climate change, and emphasized the need for clear, honest communication to counter misinformation and build support for urgent climate action.

Doppelganger at the Chan Centre

At this event in the Chan Shun Concert Hall, co-presented with the Vancouver Writers' Fest, Naomi Klein joined Jarrett Martineau in conversation to discuss her new book, Doppelganger, and expand on its themes. Together, they explored the disorienting "Mirror World" of far-right politics, artificial intelligence, and social media, examining how we navigate the blurring lines of genuine and spurious and carefully curated digital doubles in a destabilized present.

SSHRC Insight Grant Awarded

The CCJ was awarded a five-year Insight Grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council on 'Mapping far-right climate discourse and policy in Canada, the US, Argentina, and Aotearoa/New Zealand.' Led by Naomi Klein, this grant will examine how far-right advocates, movements, and parties are responding to climate change; how those strategies are linked by transnational organizations; and how these actors influence national and international climate policy. Partners include Gastón Gordillo, Veronica Gago (Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Cientificas y Tecnicas, Argentina), and Christine Winter (University of Otago, Aotearoa/New Zealand).

Naomi Klein on How Trump, Musk, and the Far Right "Don't Believe in the Future"

On Democracy Now! with Amy Goodman, Naomi Klein identifies the shocking anti-human and anti-Earth ideas animating many of the most influential figures on the far right — while offering an irresistible counter-vision around which opponents of 'End Times Fascism' can rally. This video has been watched more than 2.7 million times across platforms.

The Long Arc of Fascism: Teach-In

This first-of-its-kind, community-facing action-focused teach-in brought over 600 attendees together through discussions with scholars, activists, and artists. We connected histories of colonialism, capitalism, and the climate crisis to build collective resistance in this critical moment. We tackled questions such as: 'How do we understand our moment of political whiplash?' 'What are the connections between contemporary fascist expressions and the stolen lands on which we stand?' We sought to break people out of issue silos by building connections, brainstorming strategies, and organizing solidarities. These tactics scaffold a solid foundation for genuine, meaningful collaboration.

Palestine as Paradigm

The teach-in kicked off with an evocative keynote by historian and author Sherene Seikaly (UC Santa Barbara, author of Men of Capital: Scarcity and Economy in Mandate Palestine). She reframed Palestine not as a distant humanitarian tragedy, but as a critical framework through which to understand our current moment, marked by colonial violence, mass displacement, and climate breakdown.

Sketching Fascism's Long Arc

In this panel, Naomi Klein framed fascism as an extension of ongoing colonial structures rather than a historical exception. She emphasized the need to confront fascism through anti-colonial, anti-racist, and anti-imperialist frameworks grounded in historical accountability and collective resistance.

Fascism's Colonial Roots

Moderated by SFU's Adel Iskander, this panel included Bernard Perley speaking on 'How in the Hell? Colonialism as Fascism's Twin', Rueben George on 'Residential Schools, Genocide, and Healing as Anti-Fascism,' and Peter James Hudson on 'Pan-Africanism and Anti-Fascism.'

Fascism as Capitalist Counter-Revolution

Naomi Klein moderated a panel, with Brenna Bhandar speaking on 'When Truth is a Smear: The Backlash Against "Settler Colonialism,"' Avery Everhart on 'The Role of Anti-Trans Backlash on the Ascendent Far Right,' Gastón Gordillo on 'Fascist Moods and Genocidal Passions,' and Alberto Toscano on 'Late Fascism: Where Racial Supremacy Meets Tech Supremacy.'

Climate Apartheid

Moderated by Jessica Dempsey, this panel discussed the disproportionate harmful effects of climate on the most vulnerable, connecting Geraldine Pratt and Rafi Arefin speaking on 'Housing Justice and Climate Apartheid,' with Jemima Baada on 'Climate Breakdown and Fortressed Borders,' and Marc Fawcett-Atkinson on 'Linking Climate and Fascism.'

Other Panels

Glen Coulthard in conversation with Sherene Seikaly discussed 'Palestinian and Indigenous Solidarity in Historical Perspective.'

Jarrett Martineau and Adel Iskandar led a participatory chat on 'Witnessing Genocide and Algorithmic Overload, Organizing in the Age of Far-Right Technology.'

Astra Taylor on Building Solidarity

The closing plenary session centred on the need to build durable, transformative forms of solidarity capable of countering authoritarian resurgence. Astra Taylor stressed that solidarity must be actively constructed, based on a deep understanding of our shared struggle, and highlighting why everyone has a stake in these current events.

> ***The governing ideology of the far-right has become a monstrous, supremacist survivalism. Our task is to build a movement strong enough to stop them.***
>
> **-Naomi Klein & Astra Taylor,** *The Guardian*

Social and Institutional Drivers of Ecological Crisis

The climate crisis creates challenges to existing institutions and societal structures. Approaches to mitigating the effects through representing the crisis as a climate emergency or climate transformation, and demanding a just transition not only involve biophysical, social, and economic changes, but also raise questions of law, authority, and governance.

This research stream examines the challenges posed by the climate crisis for existing institutions, laws, and governance practices. While the destruction by status quo institutions isn't new — as noted by Indigenous scholars and leaders who have pointed to the longer term and ongoing destruction of the built world linked to colonialism and colonial governance — new accelerants are putting this into stark focus, including the exponential growth of data centres and artificial intelligence.

Canada Climate Law Initiative

The Canada Climate Law Initiative (CCLI) provides businesses and regulators with climate governance guidance powered by the nation's top expertise. CCLI has issued 29 guides and reports, reaching over 3,500 people, and engaging with over 1,890 directors and trustees to ensure businesses understand their legal duties with respect to climate change. CCLI Chair Carol Liao serves as Principal Co-Investigator along with Sara Ghebremusse and others.

Inequality is Driving the Climate Crisis: A Longitudinal Analysis of Province-Level Carbon Emissions in Canada, 1997–2020

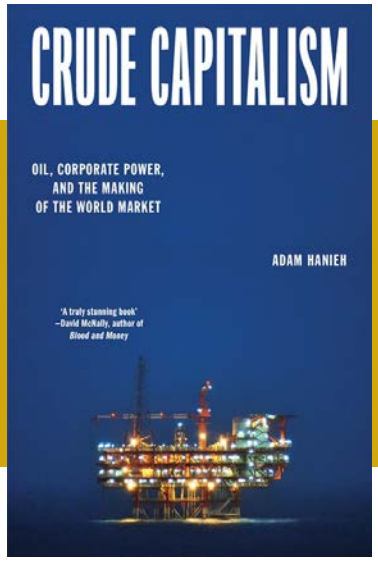
In this groundbreaking report, Andrew Jorgenson and others conducted a comprehensive analysis of the relationship between carbon emissions and income inequality for the Canadian provinces from 1997-2020. They found consistent linkages between power concentration, overconsumption, and status competition that suggest that a higher concentration of income leads to growth in anthropogenic carbon emissions. Overall, the results underscore the essential need to address income inequality in order to combat the climate crisis.

Climate Policy Landscape Analysis

Despite initial successes linked to the Green New Deal, climate policies are being undermined, especially as fossil fuel interests continue to hold sway over government actions. The report, authored by Adeline Thames and Sara Nelson, concludes that a strong "ecopopulism" is needed to resist anti-climate populism and foster a more inclusive, democratic approach to climate action. They argue that instead of retreating to centrist solutions, the climate movement must advance bold, transformative policies that combine environmental urgency with material benefits to counteract right-wing populist resistance and offer an alternative to neoliberal capitalist failures.

Inequitable Spatial and Temporal Patterns in the Distribution of Multiple Environmental Risks and Benefits in Metro Vancouver

This study, authored by Amanda Giang and Shuoqi Ren, examines how the distribution of environmental benefits (e.g., green space) and risks (e.g., heat stress) has changed across Metro Vancouver in the years 2006 and 2016. The study looks at whether different groups of residents experienced different levels of environmental quality. They found that residents facing higher social or material deprivation and visible minorities were more likely to live in areas with lower environmental quality in both years. While environmental quality improved overall in the region, many gains occurred in already high performing areas, leaving persistent inequities for some groups. The study highlights that environmental justice is not an automatic byproduct of environmental improvements, and requires targeted action.



Crude Capitalism: Oil, Corporate Power and the Making of the World Market

This event, moderated by Brenna Bhandar, featured Adam Hanieh of the University of Exeter who talked about his book 'Crude Capitalism: Oil, Corporate Power and the Making of the World Market'. The book traces the hidden connections between oil and capitalism from the late 1800s to the current climate crisis. This event was co-sponsored by the CCJ and UBC Middle East Studies.

Lawyers in a Warming World

Climate change is the great disrupter of humanity, and the Canadian legal profession is at an inflection point. Carol Liao outlines in her article how lawyers' duties to uphold and protect the public interest in the administration of justice include ensuring climate competencies. She argues that law societies must open the floodgates to grant lawyers active permission and opportunities to combat the climate crisis as a profession, collectively, as one of many things that must be done in this climate emergency.

The NEW Shock Doctrine: Charting Canada's Path in a Time of Crisis

Naomi Klein joined her brother and collaborator Seth Klein (author of A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency) for a conversation with CBC Radio's Elamin Abdelmahmoud. In front of a sold out crowd at the Chan Centre for Performing Arts, they explored how Canada and BC could seize this moment to build a more resilient economy, one less vulnerable to external shocks and committed to a serious transition away from fossil fuels and extractive industries.

The costs of inaction are borne disproportionately by those least responsible for corporate misconduct. These harms are not incidental to capitalism but integral to its operation.

-Carol Liao

GET ***INVOLVED***

As a partnership and community-based organization, the CCJ relies on your support to make the highest impact. Your support enables bold, collaborative research that connects communities, policymakers, and movements to deliver real progress toward climate justice.

If you would like to become a faculty affiliate, volunteer, or donate to our cause, please visit climatejustice.ubc.ca by scanning the QR code.

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