

Schedule and Rooms

09:00am (RHLT2): Welcome karakia and opening remarks
09:15am (RHLT2): Short research snapshot presentations I
10:15 am: Morning tea in RHMZ01 (Spillover RHMZ02)
10:45 am (RHMZ03): Short research snapshot presentations II
12:00 pm (RHMZ03): Keynote by Dr. Apisom Intralawan
13:00 pm: Lunch RHMZ01 (Spillover RHMZ02)
14:00 pm (RHLT3): Keynote by Dr. Amanda Flaim
15:00 pm: Afternoon tea RHMZ01 (Spillover RHMZ02)
15:15 pm (RHLT3): Kōrero led by Prof. Huhana Smith
On bringing Tiriti-led practice into our research
16:15pm (RHLT3): Reflections and Closing karakia

Symposium organisers:

[Associate Professor Alice Beban](#), Massey University
[Dr. Nayantara Sheoran Appleton](#), Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University

<https://perc.ac.nz/wordpress/environmental-research-across-asia/>

NOTES:

Environmental Research across Asia

Politics, Justice, and Accountability

Date: 14 April 2026

Location: Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington

Environmental issues across Asia are shaped by rapid ecological, social, and political change. From climate-driven displacement and river basin governance to urban pollution and struggles over land and livelihoods, research on the environment is deeply entangled with histories of colonialism, capitalism, and resistance. This one-day symposium brings together scholars researching environmental issues in Asia to share research and build connections across disciplines and institutions in Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.

The symposium is designed to be discussion-focused and generative, and is anchored by keynote contributions from scholars whose long-term, engaged research on the Mekong River and ancestral wetlands in Aotearoa New Zealand foregrounds environmental justice and creative knowledge-making. In addition to sharing empirical research, the symposium creates space to reflect on what it means to conduct Asia-focused environmental research while based in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Keynote speakers

Assistant Professor Apisom Intralawan is an interdisciplinary researcher at Mae Fah Luang University in Chiang Rai, Thailand. His work focuses on environmental governance and ecological economics in the Lower Mekong, grounded in long-term collaboration with rural communities affected by environmental change.

Associate Professor Amanda Flaim is based at Michigan State University, where her work centres on statelessness, citizenship, and environmental justice. She works collaboratively with artists, scholars, students, and community partners along the Mekong River to make environmental injustice visible to wider publics.

Professor Huhana Smith (Ngāti Tukorehe, Raukawa ki te Tonga) is a visual artist, curator, and interdisciplinary researcher, and Head of Whiti o Rehua School of Art at Massey University. Her work engages in major environmental projects about freshwater health and climate change that beset ancestral lands in Kuku Horowhenua, within Aotearoa New Zealand, and into the world.



Short research snapshot presentations I

Power, inequality, and environmental governance: This panel brings together a set of grounded, empirically rich accounts of how environmental governance is shaped by power and contested forms of authority. Across diverse contexts, from Indigenous forest movements and caste-based water injustice to corporate accountability, the papers reveal how access to land and water is unevenly distributed and actively struggled over.

Bunny Yorth — Massey University

Sustaining an Indigenous environmental movement in a contested forest: A case study of the Prey Lang Community Network in Cambodia

Lwin Swe — Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington

Myanmar rebels' climate initiative – a hopeful space amidst challenges

Amata Jantarangsee — Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington

Managing the floodplain complex: Citizen strategies for living in the military-led housing

Rohit Gunasekaran — Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington

Whose Water Runs Dry? Caste, Climate, and Drinking Water Justice in Rural Madurai, Tamil Nadu

Dipayan Dutta — Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington

Living Unequal Ecologies: Risk, Accountability and Participation in the Aravalli

Luthfi Eddyono — Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington

Advancing Environmental Democracy: Implications of Indonesia's Constitutional Court Ruling No. 119/PUU-XXIII/2025

Hilary Reinhart — Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington

Diversity as Resources: The Geological Heritage Regime and Tourism Development in Gunungsewu UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia

Uma Ritsri — Lincoln University

Beyond Compliance: The Extent and Evolution of GHG Disclosure among Thailand-Listed Companies

Nachapol Kalpravidh — Lincoln University

Determinants and Impacts of Good Farming Management Adoption in Indigenous Chicken Farming: Evidence from Thailand

Jyoti Sedhain — Lincoln University

Revisiting Nepal's Community Forestry for Building Social-Ecological Resilience: A Case Study of Chitwan District

Prabodha Rathnayaka — Lincoln University

Climate Vulnerability, Adaptation, and Multidimensional Well-Being: Evidence from Tea Smallholders in Sri Lanka

Short research snapshot presentations II

More-than-human relations and environmental world-making: This panel shifts the lens to consider how environmental worlds are made through everyday practices, and more-than-human relations. The panel invites us to think with, and beyond, the human, attending to the multiple ways environmental futures are imagined and enacted.

Aruna Karki — University of Auckland

Rethinking Environmental Knowledge in Asia: Climate Displacement, Sovereignty, and Relational Agency in Amitav Ghosh

Chun Cheng — Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington

The Wisdom of Water: A Study of River Imagery and Philosophy of Life in Shen Congwen's Literature

Hang Thai — University of Auckland

Everyday Food and Environmental Politics: Rethinking Nước Mắm

Yueke Li — University of Otago

Beyond "Environmental Action": Everyday Negotiations and Emergent Ecologies in Southwest China's Food Forests

Mary Jean Camarin — Lincoln University

From regenerative principles to regenerative practices: A framework for embedding regenerative tourism in community-based settings

Dini Mariska — University of Auckland

From Tsunami 2004 to Floods 2025: Young Adults Resilience in Post Disaster Tourism Development in Aceh, Indonesia

Malathi Hansa Rambodageadara — Massey University

Living with Climate Uncertainties in a Changing Socio-Ecological System: Water-Dependent Agrarian Communities in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka

Hediyeh Mirbabayi — Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington

Interplay of Climate Change and Water Management Practices in Isfahan, Iran

Yi Li — University of Otago

Migrants' eco-creative practices and climate adaptation on islands

Nurussaadah Mokhtar — University of Otago

Food, Land and Supermarket Dominance in Greater Kuala Lumpur

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