

CARGC-CDCS SYMPOSIUM

# Building Solidarity in the Anthropocene:

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## Approaches to Infrastructure, Environment, and Global Communication

**CARGC**



**Annenberg**  
SCHOOL FOR COMMUNICATION  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



CDCS

**camra**



## **Co-Sponsors**

Our global film series and closing roundtable are co-sponsored by Center of Experimental Ethnography (CEE) and Collective for Advancing Multimodal Research Arts (CAMRA) at University of Pennsylvania.

## **Logistics**

Symposium is all virtual in the form of webinars.

## **Organization Contacts**

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## Introduction

Oceans rise. Trees burn. Shales fracture. Mines pollute. Viruses spread. Cities under lockdown. Infrastructures attack. Ecologies go feral.... We are in an era where infrastructures and environments are ever closely intersected on a global scale. How to make sense of the different but intersecting logics, networks, and poetics of infrastructures and environments? What critical roles do media and mediation play in shaping the anthropocene, both in the Global South and North? At the 2022 Spring Symposium jointly organized by the Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication (CARGC) and the Center on Digital Culture and Society (CDCS), we invite speakers to discuss how they address these important questions in their respective works.

The 2022 CARGC-CDCS Symposium brings together leading scholars, artists, activists, journalists, and other experts to collaboratively envision our shared futures. Speakers will share their research and multi-modal works from wide-ranging and multidisciplinary perspectives. The main topics of discussion include resource extraction, decolonial practices, politics of environment, urban infrastructure, environmental racism, trans-oceanic supply chains, and communication infrastructures amidst global health emergencies. We envision each roundtable as a generative space for open dialogues and critical reflections. Our month-long Symposium will also feature filmmakers and their works which explore the relationships among technology, infrastructure, environment, and affected communities. Their films will be made available for online screening (access with codes) during the Symposium month. Our Symposium month will conclude with a cross-panel discussion about this year's overarching themes and our featured films.

# Symposium Schedule

Thursday, April 7

**Opening remarks** | 12:30 pm EDT

**John Jackson**

*Richard Perry University Professor and Walter H. Annenberg Dean, Annenberg School for Communication*

**Guobin Yang**

*Grace Lee Boggs Professor of Communication and Sociology; Director, Center on Digital Culture and Society and Interim Director, Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication*

**Roundtable One** | 12:45-2:00pm EDT

## **Environmental Racism and Infrastructure Injustice in the United States and Beyond**

**Sindhu Thirumalaisamy**

*Artist and Filmmaker*

**Daniel Armanios**

*BT Professor and Chair of Major Programme Management, Saïd Business School and Professorial Fellow of St. Anne's College, University of Oxford*

**Lance Freeman**

*Penn Integrates Knowledge (PIK) Professor of City and Regional Planning and Sociology, University of Pennsylvania*

**Nikhil Anand**

*Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania*

**CHAIR: KELLY DIAZ**

*Doctoral Candidate, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania | Doctoral Fellow, Center on Digital Culture and Society*

**Thursday, April 14**

**Roundtable Two** | 9:00-10:30am EDT

**Converging Across Oceans: Approaches to Logistics,  
Environment, and Power**

**Mythri Jegathesan**

*Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Santa Clara University*

**Weixian Pan**

*Assistant Professor of Interactive Media Arts, NYU Shanghai | Global Network Assistant Professor, NYU*

**Ebony Coletu**

*Assistant Professor of African American Studies, English, and African Studies, Penn State University*

**Nantina Vgontzas**

*Postdoctoral Researcher, AI Now Institute, NYU*

**CO-CHAIRS:**

**KINJAL DAVE**

*Doctoral Student, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania | Doctoral Fellow, Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication*

**AYESHA OMER**

*Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication, University of Pennsylvania*

**ZOE (MENGYANG) ZHAO**

*Doctoral Student, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania | Doctoral Fellow, Center on Digital Culture and Society*

**Thursday, April 21**

**Roundtable Three** | 12:30-1:45pm EDT

**Emergency Infrastructures: The Experience of the Pandemic**

**Melissa Tully**

*Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Iowa | Director, Global Media Studies Working Group, Obermann Center*

**Eric Klinenberg**

*Professor of Sociology, Helen Gould Shepard Professor in Social Science | Director, Institute for Public Knowledge, NYU*

**Yingyi Ma**

*Associate Professor of Sociology, Syracuse University  
Director, Asian/Asian American Studies*

**Andrew Lakoff**

*Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Southern California*

**CHAIR: ALI KARIMI**

*Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication, University of Pennsylvania*

**Thursday, April 28**

**Roundtable Four (Part I&II)**

**Building Logistical Solidarity: Transnational Media and Movements Against Extractivism**

**Part 1** | 10:00 -11:30am EDT

**Reimagining Extractive Futures: Dispatches from Chile, Peehee mm’huh (Thacker Pass, Nevada), and Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland)**

## **Inuk Jørgensen**

*Filmmaker and Activist, Greenland | Voting Member, European Film Academy*

## **Gary McKinney**

*Member, American Indian Movement/Northern Nevada Chapter | Spokesman for the People of Red Mountain Committee*

## **Ramón Morales Balcázar**

*Coordinator, Plurinational Observatory of Andean Salt Flats OPSAL | Ph.D. Student, Rural Development, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico*

### **CO-CHAIRS:**

#### **ZANE GRIFFIN TALLEY COOPER**

*Doctoral Candidate, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania | Doctoral Fellow, Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication*

#### **INGRID BURRINGTON**

*Research Affiliate, Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication, University of Pennsylvania*

**Part 2 | 12:30-2:00pm EDT**

## **Environmental Art, Activism and Decolonization**

### **T. J. Demos**

*Professor and Patricia and Rowland Rebele Endowed Chair in Art History, Department of the History of Art and Visual Culture, University of California, Santa Cruz | Founding Director, Center for Creative Ecologies*

### **Kathryn Yusoff**

*Professor of Inhuman Geography, Queen Mary University of London*

### **Melanie K. Yazzie (Diné)**

*Assistant Professor of Native American Studies and American Studies, University of New Mexico | Co-Founder, The Red Nation*

### **CHAIR: HANNA E. MORRIS**

*Postdoctoral Fellow, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania*

**Friday, April 29**

**Roundtable Five** | 9:00-10:30am EDT

**Documentary Films for Imagining Futures: Celebration & Concluding Roundtable with Global Filmmakers**

**Sindhu Thirumalaisamy**

*Artist and Filmmaker, India*

**Ben Mendelsohn**

*Assistant Professor of Film and Digital Culture, Portland State University | Filmmaker, United States*

**Liang Zhao**

*Independent Documentary Filmmaker, China | Multimedia Artist in photography and video art*

**Inuk Jørgensen**

*Filmmaker and Activist, Greenland | Voting Member, European Film Academy*

**Esther Figueroa**

*Independent Filmmaker, Jamaica | Writer, Educator, Linguist, and Activist*

**Mimi Sheller**

*Professor of Sociology & Dean, The Global School, Worcester Polytechnic Institute*

**CO-CHAIRS:**

**ALISSA JORDAN**

*Associated Director, Center for Experimental Ethnography (CEE), University of Pennsylvania*

**KINJAL DAVE**

*Doctoral Student, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania | Doctoral Fellow, Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication*



# Global Film Schedule

## The Lake and the Lake (2019) | April 7-10

*Director: Sindhu Thirumalaisamy*

**Synopsis:** *The Lake and The Lake* dwells in the peripheries of Bellandur lake in Bangalore, where the act of observation is interrupted by flying foam, noxious gases, daydreams, and questions from passers-by. Despite its spectacular toxicity, the lake remains a valuable resource and refuge for counterpublics. Standing in this *toxic commons* alongside fishing communities, migrant workers, foragers, security guards, dogs, catfish, and children, it is evident that there is no *nature* that does not also include all of us.

## As If Sand Were Stone (2019) | April 11-15

*Director: Ben Mendelsohn*

**Synopsis:** *As If Sand Were Stone* is an essay documentary about the intersections of nature and technology along the New York City waterfront. Narrated by landscape architect Gena Wirth, the film analyzes processes of dredging and sand filling as a key infrastructural process in the production of urban space. Combining observational footage of New York's harbor deepening project with a series of self-reflexive research spirals, the film also explores how sedimentary landscapes interact with digitally mediated landscapes of discourse and image.

## Behemoth (2015) | April 16-20

*Director: Liang Zhao*

**Synopsis:** Beginning with a mining explosion in Mongolia and ending in a ghost city west of Beijing, political documentarian Zhao Liang's visionary new film *Behemoth* details, in one breathtaking sequence after another, the social and ecological devastation behind an economic miracle that may yet prove illusory.

## In the Shadow of Tugtupite (2020) | April 21-25

*Director: Inuk Jørgensen*

**Synopsis:** A cinematic portrait of despair and anxiety towards an unknown future for the Inuit of the world's largest island. The film questions the rationale behind past and future mining prospects in Greenland and how they are connected to a search for identity for the fledgling nation. This film, in many ways, laid the foundation for the events that eventually led to a call for an early election in Greenland during the spring of 2021.

## Fly Me to the Moon (2019) | April 27-28

*Directors: Esther Figueroa and Mimi Sheller*

**Synopsis:** *Fly Me to The Moon* is a feature documentary by Jamaican independent filmmaker Esther Figueroa, that takes us on a journey into the unexpected ways we are all connected on Planet Earth, by following aluminum – the metal of modernity – around the world and into space. We travel for over one hundred years, visiting places as far flung as the Moon, Jamaica, India, Suriname, Canada, Cuba, Japan, Hungary, Iceland, Australia, Vietnam, the United States of America, encountering along the way human triumphs, technological innovations, multiple wars, societal upheavals, environmental devastation. And in the urgent here and now of the climate crisis, the film challenges us to think about the consequences of our consumption, to reimagine the ways in which we live, and to change our material culture and political economy that is destroying the planet we all depend on.

# Abstracts

## Roundtable One:

### **Environmental Racism and Infrastructure Injustice in the United States and Beyond**

Cities across the United States have been built and renovated over time in ways that directly and indirectly harm communities of color. But this marginalization of certain communities also takes place around the world. For example, the placement of toxic waste centers, highways, and factories in predominantly Black neighborhoods has led to high rates of pollution, asthma, and unsafe drinking water. One example is Hoboken, NJ, where the decision to locate the public housing community in the most flood prone area of the city drew Black and Latinx low-income residents into a neighborhood where they would be left vulnerable to the economic and health consequences of climate change. This roundtable brings together scholars and practitioners to share their insights on environmental racism and infrastructure injustice in cities in the U.S and around the world.

## Roundtable Two:

### **Converging Across Oceans: Approaches to Logistics, Environment, and Power**

This roundtable explores the relational entanglements between supply chain logistics, environments, and media infrastructures on a global scale. This exploration is necessarily interdisciplinary, multi-sited, and multi-temporal in its orientations. Panelists will examine a range of interconnected forces: labor struggles and political economies, sovereignty movements, post-colonial theories and frameworks, the climate crisis, environmental dispossession and resistance, the materiality of digital communication, and Covid-19 pandemic loss and shortages. By fostering interdisciplinary dialogues and highlighting transoceanic experiences, the roundtable offers space to discuss the theoretical, methodological, and practical challenges of undertaking environmental supply chain studies.

## Roundtable Three:

### **Emergency Infrastructures: The Experience of the Pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the deadliest disasters in recent history. Countries across the world have responded in various ways to manage the public health and economic risks of the pandemic. In this roundtable, we explore this global health emergency from a technological perspective covering issues such as emergency tech, surveillance, misinformation, xenophobia, and racism. Digital communication technologies have been instrumental in helping individuals and institutions cope with the COVID disruption. The strength of communication infrastructures in each country, to a large degree, determined how well they responded to the pandemic by digitizing the process of delivering health, education, emergency aid, and other public services. However, two key aspects of the pandemic response have been struggles against misinformation and the fight against racism and xenophobia, both online and offline, showing the complexities of digital media in times of global emergency. In this roundtable, the speakers will examine the many ways the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our relationship to technology, the environment, and public institutions. They will discuss the pandemic responses from a global perspective, covering the experiences of both the wealthy nations and the Global South.

## Roundtable Four (Part I&II):

### **Building Logistical Solidarity: Transnational Media and Movements Against Extractivism**

This two-part roundtable will engage leading thinkers, artists, and activists in a joint conversation about media, tactics, and strategies for building a transnational movement against extractivism. The first part will situate these struggles within two key geographies—rare earth mineral mining in South Greenland, and lithium mining in Chile and/or Nevada—endeavoring to open dialogues across these geographies, to strengthen networks of what Thea Riofrancos calls logistical or “supply chain solidarity” that can more powerfully push back against the extractive designs of (green) capitalism. The second roundtable will build on these issues, broadening the discussion geographically, theoretically, and methodologically, to address key questions of power and representation in environmental art, activism, and the politics of decolonization in this perilously uneven (green) energy transition.

## Part 1:

### **Reimagining Extractive Futures: Dispatches from Chile, Peehee mm'huh (Thacker Pass, Nevada), and Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland)**

This roundtable draws issues of environmental activism, art, media, and decolonization down into situated spaces, and attempts to open dialogues and build solidarity between these spaces. Bringing together community members, artists, and activists from three sites where extraction—in the name of green and digital futures—is actively being imposed, negotiated, and resisted, we will discuss threads of commonality between these struggles, and how these entwined threads can help build stronger networks of solidarity against the rising tide of (green) capitalism.

## Part 2:

### **Environmental Art, Activism, and Decolonization**

This roundtable brings together four dynamic scholar-activists to discuss environmental art, media, and decolonization. Topics to be discussed will include The Red Deal, environmental artist-activists, and transnational movement-building against extractivism.

## Roundtable Five:

### **Documentary Films for Imagining Futures: Celebration & Concluding Roundtable with Global Filmmakers**

Each week this month, our Symposium has provided participants access to a different documentary film which explores relationships among technology, infrastructure, environment, and affected communities in India, US, China, Greenland, Jamaica, and other Caribbean countries. In this concluding roundtable, we invite all filmmakers to celebrate and discuss their works in relation to these themes more broadly. The roundtable is moderated by Alissa Jordan, Associate Director of CEE and Kinjal Dave, CARGC Doctoral Fellow & Member of CAMRA. We welcome the audience to engage with our invited filmmakers through a live Q&A. The audience is encouraged to watch our featured films online before this event. Films will be made available for online streaming (access with codes) for a limited time (see Global Film Schedule). This film series and closing roundtable are co-sponsored by Center of Experimental Ethnography (CEE) and Collective for Advancing Multimodal Research Arts (CAMRA) at University of Pennsylvania.

# Speakers' Biographies

**Nikhil Anand** is an environmental anthropologist and Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. Anand's research focuses on urban spaces, infrastructure, state power, and climate change. His book, *Hydraulic City: Water and the Infrastructures of Politics in Mumbai* (2017), examines the ways in which cities and citizens are made through everyday management of water infrastructure. His current book project, *Urban Seas*, tries to decenter the grounds of urban planning by drawing attention to the ways in which climate-changed seas are remaking coasting cities today.

**Daniel Armanios** is the BT Professor and Chair of Major Programme Management at the Saïd Business School and a Professorial Fellow of St. Anne's College, both at the University of Oxford. His research integrates civil engineering and organizational theory. His work centers around physical infrastructure systems (namely bridges and some new work on broadband). Armanios will also discuss these threads in relation to his experiences in Pittsburgh.

**Ramón Morales Balcázar** is coordinator of the Plurinational Observatory of Andean Salt Flats OPSAL, a cross-border collective that brings together indigenous leaders, activists and researchers from Chile, Argentina, and Bolivia around the protection of these ecosystems. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Rural Development at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana. In his doctoral research he seeks to account for the re-existence processes that arise in the Salar de Atacama in a context marked by the expansion of green extractivism. He coordinated the book *Andean Salt Flats, an Ecology of Knowledge for the Protection of Our Salt Flats and Wetlands (threatened by extractivism)* (2021) and produced the documentary *Water is Worth More than Lithium* (2021). In Chile, he is currently leading an initiative that seeks to lay the foundations for a regulatory framework that, through the Rights of Nature in the new constitution, effectively recognizes and protects these ecosystems and all their inhabitants.

**Ebony Coletu** is Assistant Professor of African American Studies, English, and African Studies at Penn State University, with her Ph.D. from Modern Thought & Literature at Stanford University. Her primary area of research addresses the rhetoric of application forms

within a historical and sociological framework that accounts for the way biographic details are used to distribute institutional resources. Her current book project, *Forms of Submission: Writing for Aid and Opportunity in America* explores a 125-year history of applications for financial support and college admission, and the ways institutions address problems with inequality at the level of the applicant's biography. Coletu's work has appeared in journals such as *Biography*, *Occasion: Interdisciplinary Humanities Journal*, and *Ghana Studies Journal*.

**T. J. Demos** is an award-winning writer on contemporary art, global politics, and ecology. He is Professor and Patricia and Rowland Rebele Endowed Chair in Art History in the Department of the History of Art and Visual Culture, at University of California, Santa Cruz, and founding Director of its Center for Creative Ecologies. He researches the intersection of visual culture, radical politics, and political ecology, and is the author of numerous books, including *Beyond the World's End: Arts of Living at the Crossing* (Duke, 2020); *Decolonizing Nature: Contemporary Art and Political Ecology* (Sternberg, 2016); and *Against the Anthropocene: Visual Culture and Environment Today* (Sternberg, 2017). Demos recently co-edited *The Routledge Companion on Contemporary Art, Visual Culture, and Climate Change* (2021), was a Getty Research Institute Fellow (Spring 2020) and directed the Mellon-funded Sawyer Seminar research project *Beyond the End of the World* (2019-21). Demos was recently Chair and Chief Curator of the Climate Collective, providing public programming related to the *2021 Climate Emergency > Emergence* program at the Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology (Maat) in Lisbon. He is presently working on a new book on radical futurisms.

**Esther Figueroa** is a Jamaican independent filmmaker, writer, educator and linguist with over thirty five years of media productions. Her activist film making gives voice to those outside of mainstream media and focuses on the perpetuation of local and indigenous knowledge and cultures, the environment, social injustice, and community empowerment. Her films are screened and televised all over the world and taught at numerous universities.

**Lance Freeman** is a planner and sociologist and the Penn Integrates Knowledge (PIK) Professor of City and Regional Planning and Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. Freeman's work explores how urban neighborhoods change and evolve over time. His studies also illuminate

how social media and other new technologies can be used as tools to study neighborhoods. Freeman is dedicated to building knowledge infrastructure for planning and building better and more equitable places.

**Mythri Jegathesan** is Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Santa Clara University. She researches the lived experiences of tea plantation residents and workers, work systems and conditions of political recognition in and beyond Sri Lanka. Jegathesan is co-editor of *Anthropology of Work Review* and holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Columbia University in New York. Her book, *Tea and Solidarity: Tamil Women and Work in Postwar Sri Lanka* (2019), is an ethnography of life and work in Sri Lanka's South-Central tea plantation areas and in the context of ethnonationalist violence and civil war. She is currently researching the visual ecologies of the plantation in film and conducting a study about caste, resettlement, and landlessness in the context of transitional justice in Sri Lanka.

**Inuk Jørgensen** is a filmmaker and activist from Greenland. Jørgensen holds a master's degree in film studies, is a voting member of the European Film Academy, sits on the board of Film.GL, and has a long history of producing shorts and advertising content of different sorts. His short films have been shown at more than 100 film festivals worldwide and on every continent, including Antarctica, winning awards in as diverse countries as, the U.S., Finland, India, Greenland, and Ukraine. While he has won praise for his own films, Jørgensen is also a keen lecturer on the subject of film production/-studies. He has been teaching film production for more than a decade and has been involved in several film workshops and festivals all around the Nordic countries helping young people learn about filmmaking.

**Eric Klinenberg** is Professor of Sociology, Helen Gould Shepard Professor in Social Science, and Director of the Institute for Public Knowledge at NYU. His research focuses on urban studies, culture, and media. His books include *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago* (2002), *Fighting for Air: The Battle to Control America's Media* (2007), *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life* (2018), and more. He is also known for his contributions as a public sociologist with his appearances in *New York Times Magazine*, *The Nation*, *The Washington Post*, and more.



**Andrew Lakoff** is Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Southern California. He was trained as an anthropologist of science and medicine, and has conducted research in Argentina, France and the United States. His areas of interest include science and technology studies, biopolitics, risk society, and the social life of infrastructure. His books include *Pharmaceutical Reason: Knowledge and Value in Global Psychiatry* (2016), *Unprepared: Global Health in a Time of Emergency* (2017), and, most recently, *The Government of Emergency: Vital Systems, Expertise, and the Politics of Security* (2021) co-authored with Stephen J. Collier.

**Yingyi Ma** is Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of Asian/Asian American Studies at Syracuse University. She is the Provost Faculty Fellow, focused on internationalization, where she leads and supports culturally responsive pedagogy and programs for international education and partnership. Her research addresses education and migration in the U.S. and China and she has published approximately thirty peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, in addition to one monograph and one co-edited book. Her monograph, *Ambitious and Anxious: How Chinese College Students Succeed and Struggle in American Higher Education* (2020), won several best book awards and has been featured in national and international news media, such as *The Washington Post* and *Times Higher Education*.

**Gary McKinney** is from the Duck Valley Indian Reservation in Northern Nevada/Southern Idaho. He is a Shoshone Paiute descendant of treaties between the Shoshone & Paiutes and the United States of America. Today, McKinney and members of The People of Red Mountain continue the tradition of defending ancestral homelands from what is now the Thacker Pass Lithium Mining Project, located in North Nevada, Paiute territory. McKinney is a member of the American Indian Movement/Northern Nevada Chapter & a spokesman for the People of Red Mountain Committee.

**Ben Mendelsohn** is Assistant Professor of Film and Digital Culture at Portland State University. Previously, he was a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow with the Penn Program in Environmental Humanities (PPEH) at the University of Pennsylvania. His films have screened at the Rockaway Film Festival and the Block Museum.

**Weixian Pan** is Assistant Professor of Interactive Media Arts at NYU Shanghai and Global Network Assistant Professor, NYU. She received her Ph.D. in Film and Moving Image Studies from Concordia University, Montreal. Her research focuses on the critical intersection between media and environments. Her current book project examines how media shapes the materiality and imaginary of riverine and oceanic environments, a process corresponding to the geopolitical desires of China's southward movements. Pan's previous work appeared in journals such as *Asiascape: Digital Asia*, *Culture Machine*, and *Journal of Environmental Media*.

**Mimi Sheller** is Professor of Sociology and the Dean of The Global School at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Dr. Sheller has published more than 125 articles and book chapters, and is the author or co-editor of fifteen books, including *Advanced Introduction to Mobilities* (Edward Elgar, 2021) and *Island Futures: Caribbean Survival in the Anthropocene* (Duke University Press, 2020).

**Sindhu Thirumalaisamy** is an artist and award-winning filmmaker whose work centres (un)common spaces and the possibilities for speech and action with/in them. She has worked in relation to hospitals, parks, streets, kitchens, temples, mosques, and lakes—spaces that hold potential for collective resistance and care.

**Melissa Tully** is Associate Professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Iowa. She is also the Director of the Global Media Studies Working Group at the Obermann Center and a Senior Research Fellow in the Public Policy Center. She studies news literacy, misinformation, global media with a particular focus on African media studies, and engagement. She is currently working on research about misinformation and news literacy in Kenya and Senegal. Tully's publications have appeared in journals such as *Journal of African Media Studies*, *Health Communication*, *Journalism: Theory, Practice, and Criticism*, and *New Media & Society*.

**Nantina Vgontzas** is a postdoctoral researcher at AI Now Institute and holds a Ph.D. in sociology from NYU. They study the renewal of the labor movement across global supply chains and amid growing crises in public health, climate change and authoritarian ascent. Their work has appeared in publications of the American Sociological Association, International Labor Process Association and Data & Society Research

Institute, as well as in *New Global Studies*, *Boston Review*, and *The Nation*. They are currently writing a book about the labor and climate politics of Amazon's logistics network.

**Melanie K. Yazzie (Diné)** is Assistant Professor of Native American Studies and American Studies at the University of New Mexico and Co-Founder of The Red Nation. Yazzie is bilagaana born for Ma'iideeshgiizhinií (Coyote Pass Clan). She specializes in Navajo/American Indian history; (neo)liberalism; settler colonialism and decolonization; biopolitics; water; Indigenous feminisms; and more. She also engages in extensive public intellectual and activist work that focuses on Native women's rights, LGBTQ2 rights, environmental justice, policing and incarceration, Indigenous housing justice, urban Indigenous issues, and international solidarity. Yazzie has published articles and book reviews in *Environment & Society*, *Wicazo Sa Review*, *Studies in American Indian Literature*, *American Indian Quarterly*, *Social Text*, *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education, and Society (DIES)*, and *American Quarterly*. She currently serves as the editor for the interdisciplinary international journal *DIES*.

**Kathryn Yusoff** is Professor of Inhuman Geography at Queen Mary University of London. Her research focuses on geophilosophy, earth sciences and political aesthetics in the Anthropocene in conversation with black feminist theory. In 2018, she published *A Billion Black Anthropocenes or None*, which addresses geology and the racialization of matter. Her book *Geologic Life: Inhuman Intimacies and the Geophysics of Race* is forthcoming.

**Liang Zhao** is an independent documentary filmmaker as well as a multimedia artist in photography and video art. His films have premiered at Cannes, Venezia, and Berlinale; art works being exhibited at the International Center of Photography (New York), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin), Sala Grande Venezia (Venice), Museo Reina Sofía (Madrid) and numerous film festivals, art galleries and museums worldwide.

# Biographies of Chairs

**Ingrid Burrington** is currently a research affiliate at CARGC. Burrington has previously taught at Rhode Island School of Design, the Cooper Union, and the School for Poetic Computation. She writes, makes maps, and tells jokes about places, politics, and the weird feelings people have about both. Much of her work focuses on mapping, documenting, and studying the often-overlooked or occluded landscapes of the internet (and the ways in which the entire planet has become, in effect, a “landscape of the internet”). Her writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Nation*, *Popula*, *e-flux journal*, and other outlets. She is also the author of the book *Networks of New York: An Illustrated Field Guide to Urban Internet Infrastructure*.

**Zane Griffin Talley Cooper** is a doctoral candidate at the Annenberg School for Communication and a doctoral fellow at CARGC. He researches the cultural and ecological politics of digital media infrastructures, and how they intersect with regimes of energy production and raw resource extraction across the Arctic. His dissertation (*BIT/COIN/RARE/EARTH: Data, Energy, and Extraction across the Arctic*) is a multimodal and multi-sited ethnographic study of the entangled material practices of data, energy, and extraction in and between Iceland and Greenland. His works appeared in *Big Data & Society*, *Critical Digital Sovereignties*, and art exhibitions.

**Kinjal Dave** is a doctoral student at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania and a doctoral fellow at CARGC. She researches the politics of information at the intersection of Communication Studies and Science and Technology Studies. Prior to joining Annenberg, Dave worked as a Research Analyst at Data & Society Research Institute on the Media Manipulation and Disinformation Initiative. Dave received her bachelor’s degree in Philosophy and Political Science at Villanova University. Her research has been published in *Hyperallergic* and *Data&Society Points*.

**Kelly Diaz** is a doctoral candidate at Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania and a CDCS fellow. She works on social justice storytelling and the intersection between entertainment and activism. In particular, Diaz is passionate about accessibility to information among marginalized communities. Before joining Annenberg, she completed an AmeriCorps VISTA Year serving the public housing community in Hoboken, New Jersey.

**Alissa Jordan** is a multimodal cultural anthropologist who received her Ph.D. from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida in 2016. She is Associated Director of Center for Experimental Ethnography (CEE) at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on questions of bodily being, bodily security, and creativity across field sites in rural Haiti, urban Ghana, and in social spaces in virtual and augmented reality. She investigates these questions using methods of experimental writing, collaborative nonlinear filmmaking, sensory mapping, photography, museum exhibition, and digital experimentations. She is currently researching women's experiences of birthing, and care as resistance, in the context of hospitals that imprison mothers, infants, and other patients for debt.

**Ali Karimi** is a CARGC postdoctoral fellow, with his Ph.D. in Communication Studies from McGill University in Canada. He is a critical information scholar who studies identification technologies and surveillance practices in the Global South. In his doctoral project, he explored the challenges of governance in Afghanistan by examining the role of numerical information — or lack thereof — in administrative practices. Karimi's publications include articles in the *International Journal of Communication*, the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, and the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*.

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