Dr. Haorui Wu is Canada Research Chair in Resilience, serving as an assistant professor in the School of Social Work, Faculty of Health, at Dalhousie University. With an interdisciplinary background (architecture, landscape architecture, regional and community planning, and social work), his community-based interdisciplinary research and emerging practice have nuancedly explored disaster-driven redevelopment of human and non-human settlements through the lens of environmental justice and social justice in the global context of climate change, disaster, and willful acts of violence. His innovative socio-ecological protection strategies aim to stimulate the transdisciplinary application of engineering, social, cultural, ecological, economic, and political dimensions into the empowerment of grassroots-led community development initiatives that contribute to the enhancement of inhabitants and co-inhabitants’ health and well-being.

Dr. Ingrid Waldron is Professor and HOPE Chair in Peace and Health in the Global Peace and Social Justice Program in the Department of History, Faculty of Humanities at McMaster University. Dr. Waldron is the author of Then’s Something in the Water: Environmental Racism in Indigenous and Black Communities, which was turned into a 2020 Netflix documentary of the same name and was co-produced by Waldron, actor Elliot Page, Ian Daniel, and Julia Sanderson and directed by Page and Daniel. Her book received the 2020 Society for Socialist Studies Enrol Sharpe Book Prize and the 2019 Atlantic Book Award for Scholarly Writing. Dr. Waldron is the founder and Director of the Environmental Noxiousness, Racial Inequities and Community Health Project (The ENRICH Project) and the co-founder of the Canadian Coalition for Environmental and Climate Justice (CCECJ). Her research and community advocacy work inspired the federal private members bill a National Strategy Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice (Bill C-230).

Topic: A History of Violence: The Intersections of Environmental Racism and Climate Change Inequities in Indigenous and Black Communities in Canada

Dr. Meredith Powers (she/her/hers) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work at UNC Greensboro, USA. She teaches and conducts community engaged scholarship on topics of climate justice, climate migration, the ecosocial worldview, and eco-therapeutic practices for wellbeing. Dr. Powers is the Founder and Director of the Climate Justice Program of the International Federation of Social Workers. She also established and co-administers the global Green/EcoSocial Work Collaborative Network. She has presented her research nationally and internationally, including being invited as a keynote speaker at the United Nations for World Social Work Day (2018). Dr. Powers was recently a keynote speaker on “Collaboration and Current Efforts for Climate Justice” and was honored with the inaugural “Environmental Justice Champion Award” at the 2021 Virtual Conference on Environmental Justice, hosted by the Institute for Social Work and Environmental Justice in partnership with Adelphi University.

Topic: Learning to Unlearn: Poetry and Reflections for Embracing a Holistic Ecosocial Worldview in Social Work

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Topic: Building a Culture of Resilience: Green Social Work Initiatives

Gail Bailey is an Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work at Dalhousie University. Gail is of Inuit-Settler heritage and was raised in her traditional territory in Labrador. She specializes in Indigenizing and decolonizing research, education and professional practices. Areas of research include critical reflection methods, cross-worldview praxes, the well-being of urban Inuit, and the implications of natural resource development on marginalized people in northern communities. Prior to an academic career beginning in 2002, Gail had fifteen years of professional practice experience mainly in the field of the social, cultural and political well-being of Indigenous communities in Atlantic Canada.

Topic: Threats to Indigeneity in the North: Neocolonial Impacts on the Land

Soni Grant is a Killam Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at Dalhousie University. Their research focuses on the politics of land, jurisdiction, and energy in the American Southwest, and is informed by their ongoing involvement in environmental justice organizing in the region. Soni holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Chicago.

Topic: Coalition Building for Climate and Environmental Justice in Greater Chaco

Moderator: Dani Sherwood (she/her/hers) is pursuing a master’s degree in social work at the School of Social Work Dalhousie University