

Curriculum Vitae

Dr Fiona Williamson, Ba Hons, MA, MAEdu, PhD, FRHistS

Associate Professor in Environmental History, College of Integrative Studies (CIS), Singapore
Management University (SMU)
Lee Kong Chian Fellow (SMU)
Associate Fellow of the Climatic Research Unit (UEA)
Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (FrHistS)
Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA)
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Academic Qualifications:

- 2005-2009 University of East Anglia (UEA): PhD in early-modern History.
- 2008-11 UEA/Higher Education Academy: MA in Higher Education.
- 2005-6 UEA: Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching.
- 2002-2003 UEA: MA in History.
- 1997-2000 UEA: BA Hons in History and Politics (Joint award).

Relevant Employment History:

1. February 2022-Present Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, College of Integrative Studies, Singapore Management University (CIS, SMU)
2. July 2021-Present: Associate Professor in Environmental History (CIS, SMU)
3. Aug 2018-July 2021: Assistant Professor in Environmental History (SOSS, SMU)
4. Jul 2016-Aug 2018: Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (NUS)
5. Jan 2016-Jul 2016: Research Fellow, United Nations University – International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH)
6. Jan 2012-Jan 2016: Senior Lecturer, National University of Malaysia (UKM).
7. Sept 2010-Dec 2011: Research Assistant in Historical Environments, UEA/Leverhulme.
8. Sept 2006-Dec 2011: Lecturer in Early Modern History, UEA.
9. Nov 2007-Jul 2009: Research Assistant in Historical Climatology c.17th-20th Centuries, University of Sunderland.
10. Sept 2006-Sept 2008: Associate Tutor, School of Education and Lifelong Learning, UEA

Publications

Monographs:

- *Weather, Science, and the Environment in Colonial Malaya, under contract to Pittsburgh University Press, Intersections Series, manuscript submitted for review.*
- *Social Relations and Urban Space: Norwich, 1600-1700* (Boydell and Brewer, October 2014).
 - For reviews see: Tim Reinke-Williams, 'Review of Social Relations', *English Historical Review* CXXX1, 549 (2016): 450-2; Joseph P. Ward, 'Review of Social Relations', *Seventeenth-Century News* 73, 3&4 (2015): 140-3.

Edited Collections:

- With Bronach Kane, eds, *Women, Agency and the Law, c. 1300-1700* (Pickering and Chatto, 2013).
- F. Williamson, ed., *Locating Agency: Space, Power and Popular Politics* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010).

Articles

- Claire Lowrie, Nicole Tarulevicz and **Fiona Williamson**, 'Equatorial Living: Ambivalent Responses to Managing Tropical Heat in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay

- States, 1880s-1930s’, *Journal of Colonial History and Colonialism*, accepted 2023 for publication in 2024.
- F. Williamson, ‘An Ocean Apart: Meteorology and the Elusive Observatories of British Malaya’, *ISIS*, accepted 2022, for publication in December 2023.
 - Philip Gooding, **Fiona Williamson**, and Julie Babin, ‘Vulnerability to climatic and environmental disaster and change in the Indian Ocean World’, *International Review of Environmental History* 9:1 (2023): 31-8.
 - F. Williamson, ‘Atmosphere, environment, society: The typhoon vulnerability nexus in early twentieth-century Hong Kong’, *International Review of Environmental History* 9:1 (2023): 39-56.
 - F. Williamson, ‘Local Problems, Global Solutions?: Making it Rain in Hong Kong c. 1890-1930’, *History of Science*, early online version published April 2023 (Q1/H-Index 24).
 - Terry van Gevelt, Brian G. McAdoo, Jie Yang, Linlin Li, **Fiona Williamson**, Alex Scollay, Aileen Lam, Kwan Nok Chan, Adam D. Switzer, ‘Using virtual simulations of future extreme weather events to communicate climate change risk’, *PLOS Climate* (February, 2023): <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pclm.0000112>
 - F. Williamson, ‘Heat and colonial weather science in the Straits Settlements c. 1820-1900’, *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* 95, Part 2, No. 323 (2022): 39-56.
 - F. Williamson, ‘Framing Asian Atmospheres: Imperial Weather Science and the Problem of the Local c. 1880-1950’, *British Journal for the History of Science* 54:3 (2021). (Q1/H-Index 26).
 - F. Williamson, ‘Just doing their job: The Hidden Meteorologists of Colonial Hong Kong c. 1883-1914’, *British Journal for the History of Science* 54:3 (2021): 341-359. (Q1/H-Index 26).
 - F. Williamson, ‘Building a long-time series for weather and extreme weather in the Straits Settlements: a multi-disciplinary approach to the archives of societies’, *Climate of the Past* 17 (2021): 791–803, <https://doi.org/10.5194/cp-17-791-2021>
 - F. Williamson, ‘Disaster, state and science: historical narratives of extreme weather in East Asia and the Pacific’, *Disaster Prevention Management* 30:1 (2021): 1-4 (Q2/H-Index 49).
 - Alan Ziegler, Hanshe Lim, Robert Wasson, & **Fiona Williamson**, ‘Flood Mortality on SE Asia: Can Paleo-Historical Information Help Save Lives?’, *Hydrological Processes* (December, 2020). (H-Index 151).
 - F. Williamson, ‘Responding to Extremes: Managing Urban Water Scarcity in the Late Nineteenth-Century Straits Settlements’, *Water History* (October, 2020). (H-Index 10).
 - F. Williamson and V. Janković, ‘A Question of Scale: Making Meteorological Knowledge and Nation in Imperial Asia’, *History of Meteorology* 9 (2020).
 - F. Williamson & K. Proust, “Living in a state of filth and indifference to ... their health”: Weather, Public Health and Urban Governance in Colonial George Town, Penang’, *Environment and History* 26:2 (2020): 233-260 (Q1/H-Index 23).
 - F. Williamson, ‘The “cultural turn” of climate history: an emerging field for studies of China and East Asia’, *WIREs Climate Change* (2020): 1-10 (Q1/H-Index 58).
 - C. Courtney & F. Williamson, ‘Disasters and the Making of Asian History’, *Environment and History Journal* 26:1 (2020). Curated Special Issue and introduction (Q1/H-Index 23).
 - Stefan Brönnimann, et al., Unlocking pre-1850 instrumental meteorological records: A global inventory, *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* (2019): DOI 10.1175/BAMS-D-19-0040.1 (Q1/H-Index 171).
 - Elaine Gao, Bertrand Timbal and **Fiona Williamson**, ‘Creating Singapore’s Longest Monthly Rainfall Record from 1839 to the Present’, *MSS Research Letters* 2 (2018): 3-11.

- F. Williamson, 'The Politics of Disaster: The Great Singapore Flood of 1954', *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, 1:3 (2018): 323-339. DOI: [10.1177/2514848618776872](https://doi.org/10.1177/2514848618776872)
- F. Williamson & C. Courtney, 'Fast and Slow Disasters: The Temporality of Hazards in Environmental History', *International Review of Environmental History* 4:2 (2018).
- F. Williamson, 'Malaya's "greatest menace"? Slow Onset Disasters and the Politics of the Environment c. 1920-1950', in 'Fast and Slow Disasters: The Temporality of Hazards in Environmental History', Special Issue of *International Review of Environmental History* 4:2 (2018).
- F. Williamson, R. Allan, G. Ren, T. C. Lee, W. Lui, H. Kubota, J. Matsumoto, J. Luterbacher, C. Wilkinson, K. Wood, Collating historic weather observations for the East Asian region: challenges, solutions and reanalyses, *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences*, 35:8 (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00376-017-7259-z> (Q1/H-Index 56).
- F. Williamson, 'Uncertain Skies: 'Forecasting' Typhoons in Hong Kong c. 1874-1906' *Quaderni Storici* 52:3 (2017): 777-802 (H-Index 8).
- F. Williamson and C. Wilkinson, 'Asian Extremes: Experience and Exchange in the Development of Meteorological Knowledge c. 1840-1930', *History of Meteorology* Vol. 8, Special Issue: "Relocating Meteorology" (2017).
- F. Williamson, 'The Great Flood of 1926: Environmental Change and Disaster Governance in British Malaya', *Journal Ecosystem Health and Sustainability*, Environmental Impact of Disasters - special issue, 2:11 (2016).
- F. Williamson, Cross-Disciplinary Working in the Sciences and Humanities: Historical Data Rescue Activities in Southeast Asia and Beyond, *Geoscience Letters* 3:31 (2016) (Q1/H-Index 10).
- F. Williamson, 'A Milestone on the Road to Independence? Singapore's Catastrophic 1954 Floods', *Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History* (October, 2016). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5282/rcc/7677>
- R. Allan, F. Williamson, et al., 'Toward Integrated Historical Climate Research: the example of Atmospheric Circulation Reconstructions over the Earth', *WIREs Climate Change* 7:2 (2016): 164-174. DOI: 10.1002/wcc.379 (Q1/H-Index 58).
- F. Williamson, 'Weathering the British Empire: meteorological research in the early nineteenth-century Straits Settlements', *The British Journal for the History of Science* 48:3 (2015), 475-492 (Q1/H-Index 26).
- F. Williamson, R. Allan, A. D. Switzer, J. C. L. Chan, R. J. Wasson, R. D'Arrigo, R. Gartner, 'New Directions in Hydro-Climatic Histories: Observational Data Recovery, Proxy Records and the Atmospheric Circulation Reconstructions over the Earth (ACRE) Initiative in Southeast Asia', *Geoscience Letters* 2:2 (2015), 1-12 (Q1/H-Index 10).
- F. Williamson & E. Southard, Drinking Houses, Popular Politics and the Middling Sorts in Early-Seventeenth Century Norwich, *Journal of Cultural and Social History* 12:1 (2015), 9-26 (Q1/H-Index 14).
- F. Williamson, 'When "Comoners were made slaves by the magistrates": Political Culture and Electioneering in the 1620s', *Journal of Urban History*, 43:1 (2017), 3-17 (First Published February 5, 2015 Online first) (Q1/H-Index 23).
- F. Williamson, 'The Spatial Turn in Social History: A Review of Recent Research Trends', *European History Quarterly* 44: 4 (2014), 703-17 (Q2/H-Index 16).
- F. Williamson, 'Public and Private Worlds? Social History, Gender and Space', *History Compass Journal* (Special Issue) 10: 9 (2012), pp. 633-643.
- P. Brohan, R. Allan, E. Freeman, D. Wheeler, C. Wilkinson and F. Williamson, eds, 'Constraining the temperature history of the past millennium using early instrumental observations', *Climate of the Past Journal*, 8 (2012), pp. 1653-1685 (Q1/H-Index 64).

- F. Williamson, 'Space and the City: Gender Identities in the Seventeenth Century', *Journal of Cultural and Social History* 9:2 (2012), 169-85 (Q1/H-Index 14).

Chapters

- 'El Niño and the human-environment nexus: drought and vulnerability in Singapore 1877-1911', in Philip Gooding, ed., *Droughts, Floods, and Global Climatic Anomalies in the Indian Ocean World, a Palgrave World Environmental History* (Springer, 2022), Ch. 8.
- 'Friends, Neighbours and Strained Relationships in Seventeenth-Century Norwich and Norfolk', in Bronach Kane and Simon Sandall, eds., *The Experience of Neighbourhood in Medieval and Early Modern Norfolk* (Routledge, 2021), Ch. 13.
- 'Crossing Colonial Borders: Governing Environmental Disasters in Historic Context', in M. Miller, M. Douglass, M. Garschagan, eds., *Crossing Borders: Governing Environmental Disasters in a Global Urban Age in Asia and the Pacific* (Singapore: Springer, 2018).

Media and Magazine

- Fiona Williamson and Joshua Goh, 'The 'Other' Garden City: Documenting Singapore's Edible Gardening Heritage', *BiblioAsia*, submitted, expected publication summer 2024.
- The English East India Company and Environmental Change in the Straits Settlements, essay to accompany archival documents for visitors and site users for Adam Matthews Digital Archives Site, East India Company (IOR F Series), 2024: <https://www.eastindiacompany.amdigital.co.uk/>
- Contributor of digital objects for Weathered History - The Material Side of Past Climate Change, a Google exhibition for the history of climate, under the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), 2020: <https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/weathered-history/hwJiMeBlg6zDLg>
- F. Williamson, The Science of Stifling Heat: Recognising Urban Climate Change in the Straits Settlements, Historical Climatology, 2020: <https://www.historicalclimatology.com/projects/the-science-of-stifling-heat-recognising-urban-climate-change-in-the-straits-settlements>
- F. Williamson and Qing Pei, 'Archives of Societies and historical climatology in East and Southeast Asia', *PAGES Magazine* 28:2 (2020): 8-9.
- Interview for German Radio station WDR on historical air conditioning technologies and heat (Klimaanlage: Ein Kasten verändert die Welt) in pre-1950s Singapore: <https://www1.wdr.de/radio/wdr5/sendungen/neugier-genuegt/feature-klimaanlage-100.html>
- F. Williamson and S. Xu, 'Iced Bovril with soda, anyone? Dealing with city heat in colonial Singapore', *The Straits Times* (24.12.2018)

Reports

- F. Williamson, Rob Allan & Rosanne D'Arrigo, 'Towards new weather and climate baselines for assessing weather and climate extremes, impacts and risks', *Asia Pacific Network Science Bulletin* 7:1 (2017): doi:10.30852/sb.2017.179
- F. Williamson, Rob Allan & Guoyu Ren, 'The Atmospheric Circulation Reconstructions over the Earth (ACRE) initiative ACRE China workshop: Recovery, Digitization and Analysis of Pre-mid-20th Century Climate Observational Data in East Asia workshop 23-24th August, Beijing, China', *Earth and Space Science* (December, 2016) (Q1/H-Index 14).
- F. Williamson, 'Recovering Historic Weather Data in Southeast Asia', *Asia Pacific Network Science Bulletin* (March, 2014).

Articles and Chapters submitted for peer-review:

- Unhealthy Climates, Unhealthy Bodies: Medical Meteorology and Natural Hazards in the Straits Settlements c. 1840-1940, invited chapter submitted to the *Cambridge History of Health in Modern Asia* series edited by Robert Peckham.
- ‘Weather and War: Malaya c. 1940-1960’, invited article for a special issue for the *British Journal for the History of Science* submitted to the SI editors January 2023.
- With Cary Mock, ‘The Historical Record of Hong Kong Typhoons Since the Early Nineteenth Century’, invited article for a special issue of the *Journal of Marine Geology*, to be submitted September 2023.
- Collecting for the Empire: Being a (non-Western) Botanist in Malaya c. 1880-1920, submitted to *ISIS*, under review.

Grants and Awards (since 2019). Details of previous grants available on request:

- PI: Ministry of Education Singapore Tier 2 grant (MOET2) Building a Deeper Long-Term Climate Understanding of Rainfall Trends in Singapore, West Malaysia, and Northern Sumatra. Project ID: T2EP40123-0021. TPV SGD \$563,550.00.
- PI: National Heritage Board (NHB) Singapore The ‘Other’ Garden City: Documenting Singapore’s Edible Gardening Heritage, Project ID: 001143-00001, 2022-2024. TPV SGD\$64,870
- General Research Fund (GRF) Using immersive virtual reality experiences of extreme weather events to communicate climate change risks in Hong Kong Grant number: 17601221; TPV HK\$420,659, 36 months from 23 August 2021.
- Lee Kong Chian Fellowship Award (SMU) S\$55,000 for research 01/07/2020-2024.
- PI: Research Capacity Building Fund (RCBF) internal grant from SMU: 2022 S\$46,560
- PI: Research Capacity Building Fund (RCBF) internal grant from SMU: 2020 S\$36,000
- PI: Ministry of Education Singapore Tier 1 Grant (MOET1 19-C242-SMU-003): Reconstructing El Niño in Singapore and Malaysia: a multi-disciplinary approach, 2019-20. TPV S\$39,940
- CO-PI: Ministry of Education Singapore Tier 3 Grant (MOE2019-T3-1-004), Component C (extreme sea level under PI Prof Adam Switzer) ‘Southeast Asia Sea-Level Program (SEA²) submitted by Prof Benjamin Horton of the Earth Observatory Singapore (EOS), 01.09.2020- 31.10.2026. TPV S\$9,264,640
<https://earthobservatory.sg/research/climate/sea-level-research/southeast-asia-sea-level-program>
- Collaborator: Ministry of National Development and National Research Foundation Urban Solutions and Sustainability Integration Fund (USS-IF -2020-2); “Assessing extreme sea level exposure for Singapore and the central Sunda shelf region” submitted under Adam Switzer, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), 01.01.2021- 02.01.2025. TPV: S\$1,440,448.00
- Collaborator: ‘Climate change and social transformation in colonial Southeast Asia’, headed by Prof Atsushi Ota of Keio University, Tokyo and funded by Japan Society for the Promotion Science, 2019-2024: <https://kaken.nii.ac.jp/en/grant/KAKENHI-PROJECT-19H01322/>.
- CO-PI: Ministry of Education Singapore Tier 2 Grant MOE2018-T2-2-120 (NUS), Heat in Urban Asia: Past, Present and Future, 2018-2022. TPV S\$774,128

Select International Conferences/Talks (Post-2019). Details of remaining events available on request:

- Invited Speaker: Doing History in the Anthropocene: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Complex Problems, Earth Observatory Singapore (EOS), 6th September 2023.

- Panel Chair and Speaker: ‘The Human-Environment-Climate Nexus: Exploring Disaster Responses and Water Related Hazards in East and Southeast Asia’, Association for East Asian Environmental History Biennial conference, Daejeon, Korea, 28 June-2 July.
- Invited Speaker: ‘El Niño and the human-environment nexus’, Climate Change and Cities, University of Villanova, 12 April 2023.
- Invited Speaker: ‘Atmosphere, Environment and Society’, Climate Change and Society: Perspectives from Past and Present Conference, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, 16-17 June 2022.
- Invited Speaker: ‘Drought, climate variability and governance in the Straits Settlements: the 1877-8 strong El Niño in context’, Climate and Urban/Rural Development in Colonial Southeast Asia, Keio University Tokyo, 19-20 March 2020.
- Co-Organiser and Speaker: ‘ACRE Southeast Asia’, The ACRE China, Southeast Asia, and Japan workshop, China University of Geosciences (CUG), Wuhan, 4-6 November 2019.
- Keynote: ‘Historical Climate Data Recovery and Humanities Research in China and Southeast Asia’, CRIAS 2nd workshop: Integrating documentary evidence into climate reconstruction and impact studies, University of Leipzig, October 2019.
- Invited Speaker: ‘Local Problems, Global Solutions?: Making it Rain in Hong Kong c. 1890-1930’, Weather, Climate, and Everyday Life: Environmental Technologies in Modern East Asia, Hong Kong University, 17 May 2019.
- Invited Speaker: ‘The ACRE & ACRE SEA initiative: Global historic data recovery for climate science and applications: the importance of historical data and data digitisation’, 2nd Regional Workshop on ASEAN Regional Climate Data, Analysis and Projections, Meteorological Services Singapore, 26 March 2019.
- Invited Speaker: ‘Drought, climate variability and governance in the Straits Settlements: the 1877-8 strong El Niño in context’, 3rd Workshop of the ARC Linkage Project ‘Hazards, Tipping Points, Adaptation and Collapse in the Indo-Pacific World’, Universitas Gadjah Mada, 28-29 August 2019.

Service to the Profession:

- Editorial Collective for History of Meteorology journal, from 2022.
- Senior Editor for Oxford University Press, Oxford Research Encyclopaedias: Climate Science (History of Climate and Climate Science)
- Editorial Board for *International Review of Environmental History Journal* (IREH), ANU Press.
- Editorial Board for the *Journal of Disaster Studies*: <https://jds.scholasticahq.com/editorial-board>

Fellowships and Visiting Positions:

- Urban Fellow (Urban Life Pillar), Cities Institute, Singapore Management University, from 2023.
- Visiting Position Cambridge University, Centre for History and Economics, May-June 2023.
- Lee Kong Chian Fellowship for Outstanding Research, Singapore Management University, 2020-2024.
- Associate Fellow of the Climatic Research Unit (CRU), University of East Anglia (UEA), from 2012.
- Fellow of the Brussels Institute for Advanced Studies (BrIAS), 2022.
- Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (FrHistS), lifetime.

- Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA), lifetime.

Professional Service:

- Council Member for the Association of Asian Environmental History (AAEH), from 2023.
- Co-President of the International Commission for the History of Meteorology (ICHM), from 2022 for five years.
- Area Representative (Southeast Asia) for the International Commission for the History of Meteorology (ICHM)
- Section President for Interdisciplinary Geosciences, Asia-Oceania Geosciences Society (2018-2020).
- Section Vice-President for Interdisciplinary Geosciences, Asia-Oceania Geosciences Society (2020-2022).
- Southeast Asia regional lead for the International Circulation Reconstructions over the Earth initiative (ACRE) headed by the United Kingdom Meteorological Office, Hadley Centre: <http://www.met-acre.net/chapters.htm>
- History of Science Society (member)
- Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine (member and co-convenor for working group ‘Under Stormy Skies: Science, Technology and Society’ 2020-21: <https://www.chstm.org/content/under-stormy-skies-atmospheric-science-technology-and-society>).
- PAGES-IPO Past Global Changes Climate Reconstruction and Impacts from the Archives of Societies (CRIAS) working group (member) <http://pastglobalchanges.org/science/wg/crias/intro>.
- Committee member of EnvHist4P, a group of academics that use historical case-studies to assess present-day concerns and guide public policy: <https://cchri.princeton.edu/envhist4p/people>