

Sayd Priscilla Randle

Email: sprandle@smu.edu.sg

Mail: College of Integrative Studies, 10 Canning Rise, Singapore 179873

Employment

Singapore Management University	Assistant Professor of Urban Studies, from February 2023 College of Integrative Studies Fellow, SMU Urban Institute, from August 2023
Texas Water Resources Institute	Research Scientist, January to December 2022 Urban Water Innovation and Sustainability Hub Texas A&M AgriLife Research
University of California Berkeley	Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellow, September 2020 to December 2021 Department of Geography Rausser College of Natural Resources
University of Southern California	Society of Fellows in the Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow, August 2018 to August 2020 Department of Anthropology

Education

Yale University	PhD in Environmental Studies and Anthropology, 2018 School of the Environment and Department of Anthropology Dissertation: <i>Replumbing the city: Water(s) and space in Los Angeles</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winner of the John Addison Porter Prize, a university-wide award for a work of written scholarship “in which it is possible, through original effort, to gather and relate facts and/or principles and to make the product of general human interest”
University of Cambridge	MPhil (with distinction) in Environment, Society & Development, 2010 Department of Geography
Williams College	BA (<i>cum laude</i>) in English, 2008

Publications

Monographs

1. **Randle, Sayd.** (2025). *Replumbing the city: Water management as climate adaptation in Los Angeles*. University of California Press.

Journal articles

1. **Randle, Sayd** and Matthew Archer. (2025) "Political ecologies of storage for the 21st century." *Antipode*
2. **Randle, Sayd** and David Linville. (2024) "Big infrastructure and/as systemic flexibility: The Sites Reservoir story." *Journal of Political Ecology*
3. **Randle, Sayd.** (2024) "Wild hogs in the water: Contested infrastructural ecologies of reservoir storage in Texas." *Antipode*
4. **Randle, Sayd.** (2024) "Geographies of storage." *Geography Compass*
5. Chatti, Deepti and **Sayd Randle.** (2023) "Disrupting the grid: Encountering fire and smoke through energy infrastructures." *Environment and Society: Advances in Research*
 - Winner of the 2024 Anthropology & Environment Society's Bonnie J. McCay Junior Scholar Award
6. Heidari, Bardia, **Sayd Randle**, Dean Minchillo, and Fouad Jaber. (2023) "Green stormwater infrastructure: A critical review of the barriers to implementation." *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Water*
7. **Randle, Sayd.** (2022) "Ecosystem duties, green infrastructure, and environmental injustice in Los Angeles." *American Anthropologist*
 - Honorable Mention for the 2022 Anthropology & Environment Society's Bonnie J. McCay Junior Scholar Award
8. **Randle, Sayd.** (2022) "On aqueducts and anxiety: Water infrastructure, ruination, and a region-scaled Anthropocene imaginary." *GeoHumanities*
9. **Randle, Sayd.** (2022) "Holding water for the city: Emergent geographies of storage and the urbanization of nature." *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*
10. **Randle, Sayd.** (2021) "Battling over bathwater: Greywater technopolitics in Los Angeles." *City & Society*
 - Co-Winner of the 2021 *City & Society* Best Paper Prize
11. **Randle, Sayd.** (2021) "Missing power: Nostalgia and disillusionment among Southern California water managers." *Critique of Anthropology*
12. **Randle, Sayd** and Jessica Barnes. (2018) "Liquid futures: Water management systems and anticipated environments." *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Water*

Journal special issues

1. **Randle, Sayd** and Matthew Archer, co-editors. (2025). "Political ecologies of storage for the 21st century." *Antipode*
2. Sullivan, Kathleen and **Sayd Randle**, co-editors. (2024). "Water in short supply." *Journal of Political Ecology*

Book chapters

1. **Randle, Sayd.** (2022). "Where should drinking water come from?" In *People Before Markets: An Alternative Casebook*, eds. Daniel Souleles, Johan Gersel, and Morton Thaning. Cambridge University Press.

2. **Randle, Sayd.** (2020) "Claiming the Los Angeles River for 'the public', by boat and by permit." In *Public Lands in the Western US: Place and Politics in the Clash Between Public and Private*, eds. K. Sullivan and J. McDonald. Lexington Books.
3. **Randle, Sayd.** (2019) "Harvesting Alternative Water Resources (U.S. West)." *Oxford Bibliographies in Ecology*.
4. **Randle, Sayd,** Lauren Baker, C. Anne Claus, Chris Hebdon, Alder Keleman, and Michael R. Dove. (2017) "Unsustainability in action: An ethnographic examination." In *Routledge Handbook of Environmental Anthropology*, eds. H. Kopnina and E. Shoreman-Ouimet. Routledge.
5. **Randle, Sayd.** (2016) "At home in the watershed: Environmental imaginaries and spatial politics in Los Angeles." In *The Greening of Everyday Life: Challenging Practices, Imagining Possibilities*, eds. J.M. Meyer and J. Kersten, Oxford University Press.

Book reviews

1. **Randle, Sayd.** (2023) Review of *Running Out* by Lucas Bessire. *American Ethnologist*
2. **Randle, Sayd.** (2022) "Wages for climate stewardship?" *Los Angeles Review of Books* ([link](#))
3. **Randle, Sayd.** (2020) "Unmaking California's Central Valley." *Los Angeles Review of Books* ([link](#))
4. **Randle, Sayd.** (2018) Review of *Landscapes of Power* by Dana Powell. *Journal of Peasant Studies*
5. **Randle, Sayd.** (2015) Review of *Resilient Life* by Brad Evans and Julian Reid. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*

Essays, commentaries, popular media, etc.

1. **Randle, Sayd.** (2024) "Pigs and the city: Urban greening requires a re-look at sharing space with animals and nature." *Asian Management Insights* ([link](#))
2. **Randle, Sayd.** (2024) "On permeable waters and landscapes: A special commentary." *Engagement: A Blog of the Anthropology and Environment Society* ([link](#))
3. **Randle, Sayd.** (2022) "The rural price tag of California's clean energy transition." *Zocalo Public Square* ([link](#))
4. **Randle, Sayd.** (2021) "Desert arcologies and path dependencies." *Weather Matters* ([link](#))
5. **Randle, Sayd.** (2020) "Ordinary disasters: On unexceptional flooding in LA's San Fernando Valley." *Michigan Quarterly Review*.
6. **Randle, Sayd.** (2019) "Bare mountaintops and thirsty cities: On California and its snowpack." *Metropolitics* ([link](#))
7. **Randle, Sayd.** (2018) "The meanings and limits of 'local water' in Los Angeles." *Engagement: A Blog of the Anthropology and Environment Society* ([link](#))
8. **Randle, Sayd.** (2016) "The effluent society." *The Awnl* ([link](#))
9. **Randle, Sayd.** (2015) "Seeing California's water future(s) at Orange County's Groundwater Replenishment System." *Platypus: The CASTAC Blog* ([link](#))
10. Harms, Erik, Ryan Jobson, Caroline Merrifield, and **Sayd Randle.** (2013) "Modernity of this century: Four ethnographic perspectives. *Anthropology of this Century* ([link](#))

Research awards and fellowships

1. Singapore Management University College of Integrative Studies, Singapore Ministry of Education Tier 1 Grant: “Storage landscapes in 21st century Nepal,” 2024. SG\$18,688.
2. Singapore Management University Urban Institute, Singapore Ministry of Education Tier 1 grant: “Natural infrastructure, interspecies entanglements, and spatial relations in Singapore and Houston,” 2024. SG\$46,000
3. American Council of Learned Societies and Mellon Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2017-2018. US\$30,000
4. Wenner Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, 2014. US\$20,000
5. Yale Department of Anthropology Williams Fund Award, 2014. US\$3000
6. Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant, 2014. US\$5000
7. Hixon Center for Urban Ecology Research Fellowship, 2013. US\$5800
8. John F. Enders Fund Research Fellowship, 2013. US\$1500
9. Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies Doctoral Pilot Research Award, 2012. US\$5000

List of courses taught

1. Ethnographies of Climate Change. Singapore Management University, Spring 2024
2. Cities in Asia: Planning, Policy, and Praxis. Singapore Management University, Fall 2023
3. Anthropologies of Climate Change. University of Southern California, Spring 2020
4. Global Studies Senior Seminar. University of Southern California, Fall 2019
5. Californians and Water. University of Southern California, Spring 2019

Conference and workshop participation

1. August 2024, “The urbanisation challenge in Asia: The pasts, presents and futures of densification, contraction, and sprawl” (invited workshop), Singapore Management University, Singapore.
2. July 2024, EASST/4S Joint Meeting. Presented a paper on “Domestic taps and drains as technopolitical terrain: Greywater entanglements in Los Angeles.” Amsterdam, Netherlands
3. April 2024, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Organized a double panel on “The Long biographies of water and energy infrastructures” (with Adrienne Kroepsch), presented a paper on “Wild hogs in the water: Contested infrastructural ecologies of storage in Texas, USA,” served as a panelist on an author-meets-critics session on the book *Urban Ecologies on the Edge: Making Manila's Resource Frontier*, Honolulu, HI
4. November 2023, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. “Porosity and danger (and opportunity): The contradictions of recharging a toxic aquifer,” Toronto, Canada
5. April 2023, “Land futures: Grounds for concern in global development” (invited workshop), University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

6. March 2022, Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting. Organized a double panel on “Water in short supply” (with Kathleen Sullivan), presented a paper on “Reading threats to the California waterscape through the (nonexistent) Sites Reservoir,” Salt Lake City, UT, USA (online)
7. February 2022, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Organized a double on “New political ecologies of storage: Holding matter and value in place in the 21st century” (with Matthew Archer), presented a paper on “Dispatches from inland California’s energy storage frontier.” (online)
8. November 2021, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Organized a roundtable on “Relations of possibility: More-than-human arrangements and the politics of care” (with Gabriela Morales), presented a paper on “On (still) loving the Los Angeles Aqueduct,” participated in a roundtable titled “Neither ‘global’ nor ‘local’: Regional methods in a time of climate crisis,” Baltimore, MD, USA (online)
9. November 2021, “Enduring liminality” (invited workshop), Emory University (online)
10. April 2021, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, “Climate adaptation as green gentrification in a perennial urban floodscape.” (online)
11. November 2019, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, “Restoring landscape function in Los Angeles, yard-by-yard,” Vancouver, BC, Canada
12. August 2019, Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting, “Water that can wait: Resilience and the infrastructures of buffering,” New Orleans, LA, USA
13. November 2018, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, organized a panel on “Re-scaling infrastructural imaginaries: Futurity, resilience, and sustainability” (with Deepti Chatti) San Jose, CA, presented a paper on “Green infrastructure, ecosystem duties, and environmental injustice in Los Angeles,” San Jose, CA, USA
14. November 2018, “Human challenges in extreme environments” (invited workshop), University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA
15. September 2018, Association of Social Anthropology of the UK and Ireland, “On aqueducts and anxiety: Reading LA’s future through infrastructure stories,” Oxford, UK
16. November 2017, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, organized a double panel on “Politics and ‘the good life’” (with Caroline Merrifield and Gabriela Morales), presented a paper on “The good life and the sewer: Greywater environmentalism in Los Angeles,” Washington, DC, USA
17. April 2017, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, “Seeing like a snowpack: Climate resilience, water security, and the Sierra Nevada,” Boston, MA, USA
18. April 2017, “The Hydraulic Society revisited” (invited workshop), University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA
19. March 2017, Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, “On imported water and the LA engineers who still love it,” Santa Fe, NM, USA
20. November 2016, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. “Rain, terrain, and spatial governance in Los Angeles,” Minneapolis, MN, USA

21. April 2016, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, “Showers-to-flowers-to-aquifers: The messy technopolitics of LA’s home greywater boom,” San Francisco, CA, USA
22. March 2015, Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, “(Re)Localizing groundwater supply through augmentation: The politics of replenishment in Los Angeles,” Pittsburgh, PA, USA
23. June 2014, “Greening of everyday life: Reimagining environmentalism in post-industrial societies” (invited workshop), Rachel Carson Center, Munich, DE

Invited talks and panels

1. August 2024, National University of Singapore Asia Research Institute, Roundtable on *The Ends of Research: Indigenous and Settler Science after the War in the Woods*, chairperson. (online)
2. March 2023, Scripps College, Core Program in the Interdisciplinary Humanities, “Infrastructural nature and environmental justice in climate-adapting Los Angeles.”
3. March 2023, University of Southern California, “Life After concrete: Imagining the future of the LA River,” panelist.
4. April 2022, School for Advanced Research, “Creative Thought Forum: Climate Change and Environmental Justice,” moderator. (online)
5. February 2022, California Center for Ethics and Policy, “‘It’s California, Jake.’ Power, water and the golden state,” panelist. (online)
6. December 2020, University of California Berkeley Department of Geography, “Holding water for the city: Emergent geographies of storage and the urbanization of nature.” (online)
7. October 2020, University of Colorado Boulder Department of Geography, “Adaptation work: Ecological labor and environmental equity in the Los Angeles waterscape.” (online)
8. May 2020, University of California Los Angeles Department of Anthropology, “Battling over bathwater: Conflicting (time)scales of water recycling in Los Angeles.” (online)
9. November 2019, University of Southern California Society of Fellows in the Humanities, “Working beyond capital’s gaze: Waterscape labor and environmental injustice.”
10. February 2018, University of California Los Angeles Department of Urban Planning, “Replumbing the city: Water management and climate adaptation in Los Angeles.”
11. January 2018, Yale-NUS College Department of Urban Studies, “Replumbing the city: Water management and climate adaptation in Los Angeles.”
12. November 2017, University of California Irvine Department of Anthropology, “*dreams*, frontiers, and managed landscapes in the U.S. West.”
13. April 2016, Williams College Center for Environmental Studies, “The storm catchers: Environmental labor and stewardship in Los Angeles.”

Service

- Organizing team, *Science, Technology & Human Values* STS School (2024)

- Co-founder and co-organizer, Singapore University Network of Science and Technology Works-in-Progress Group (2023-present)
- Eric Wolf Student Paper Prize Committee (2021-present), Political Ecology Society
- Bonnie J. McCay Junior Scholar Award Committee (2023), Anthropology and Environment Society
- Invited peer reviewer:
 - Journals: *American Anthropologist* (5); *Antipode* (2); *City & Society*; *Critique of Anthropology* (2); *Cultural Anthropology*; *Culture, Agriculture, Food and Environment*; *Environmental Humanities*; *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* (5); *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*; *Frontiers in Water*; *Geoforum*; *GeoHumanities*; *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* (2); *Local Government Studies*; *Science, Technology, & Human Values* (3); *Social Studies of Science*; *Urban Geography* (2)
 - Grants: Texas Water Resources Institute USGS 104b Research Grant Competition; United States National Science Foundation, Science and Technology Studies Program
 - Book chapters and proposals: Bloomsbury; Columbia University Press
- Master of Visual Anthropology thesis reviewer (2020), University of Southern California
- Undergraduate Environmental Science Practicum external proposal reviewer (2019), University of California Los Angeles
- Co-organizer (with Ila Tyagi), inaugural Environmental Humanities Graduate Student Symposium (April 2017), Yale University

Creative collaborations & consulting

- Summer 2019, Environmental Consultant for the HBO Max series *Made for Love* (2021-2022), a show based on the eponymous novel. Advised writers on California groundwater history and policy to inform details of the show's dystopian, near-future desert setting.
- Fall 2018, Lead Researcher for *Oscillations: One Hundred Years and Forever*, an immersive art and sound installation by Pulitzer-winning composer Ellen Reid. Conducted archival research on the history of Los Angeles's Bunker Hill neighborhood, material that served as the basis for a site-specific visual and sonic installation on time and memory. Premiered as part of the LA Philharmonic Orchestra's 2018-19 season.
- Summer 2016 through spring 2018, Lead Researcher for *dreams of the new world*, an ethnography-based choral work by Ellen Reid for the Los Angeles Master Chorale. Conducted interviews and archival research in Los Angeles, Houston, and Memphis. Material from this research served as the basis for the original music composition that explores the ideologies and ideals that have shaped the U.S. West. Piece debuted at LA's Disney Concert Hall in 2018.