

Curriculum Vitae

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

Assistant 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.

Supervisor: Professor Andy Wood, now University of Durham.

- 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. Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, College of Integrative Studies, Singapore Management University (SCIS, MU)
2. July 2021-Present: Associate Professor in Environmental History (CIS, SMU)
3. August 2018-Present: Assistant Professor in Environmental History (CIS, SMU)
4. July 2016-August 2018: Research Fellow, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (NUS)
5. January 2016-July 2016: Research Fellow, United Nations University – International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH)
6. Jan 2012-January 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. November 2007-July 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

Published Work:

Monographs:

- *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

- 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).
- F. Williamson, 'The Politics of Disaster: The Great Singapore Flood of 1954', *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, 1:3 (2018). 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

- 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:

- Local Problems, Global Solutions?: Making it Rain in Hong Kong c. 1890-1930, *History of Science* (Q1/H-Index 24), invited for a special issue on socio-technologies and weather. Accepted with revisions.
- 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 (2021).
- An Ocean Apart: Meteorology and the Elusive Observatories of British Malaya, submitted to *History of Science* journal in 2022.
- Beyond Tropicality: heat and colonial weather science in the Straits Settlements c. 1820-1900, submitted to *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* in 2022.
- With Terry van Gevelt et al 'Communicating climate change risks through virtual simulations of future extreme weather events', submitted to *Communications Earth and Environment* in 2022.
- With Claire Lowrie and Nicole Tarulevicz, 'Equatorial Living: Ambivalent Responses to Managing Tropical Heat in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States, 1880s-1930s', submitted to *Modern Asian Studies* in 2022.

Book Reviews:

For a variety of journals including *Cultural and Social History Journal*, *European History Quarterly*, *Gender and History Journal*, *English Historical Review*. Details available on request.

Grants and Awards (recent):

- National Heritage Board (NHB) Singapore The 'Other' Garden City: Documenting Singapore's Edible Gardening Heritage, Project ID: 001143-00001 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\$45 for research 01/07/2020-2023.

- 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. TPV S\$39,940 01.09.19-31.08.20
- 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): 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): <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). TPV: S\$1,440,448.00 01.01.2021-02.01.2025
- Collaborator on ‘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: <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. TPV S\$774,128
- CO-PI: Humanities and Social Sciences Seed Fund Award (NUS): “Urban Gardening in East and Southeast Asia: Transformations in Perspective and Practice” 2017-2018 WBS-R-395-000-054-646 SGD\$20,000
- CO-PI: Humanities and Social Sciences Seed Fund Award (NUS): “Heat in Urban Asia: Past, Present, and Future” 2017-2018 WBS-R-395-000-052-646 SGD\$20,000
- Asia Research Institute (NUS) Conference Funding for “Asian Extremes: Climate, Meteorology and Disaster in History”, 17-18 May 2018, National University of Singapore SGD\$25,000.
- CO-PI: Wellcome Trust Seed Award in Humanities and Social Science, ‘Historical Perspectives on the Interplay between Public Health and Urban Planning in Penang, Malaysia ‘in conjunction with UNU-IIGH, for 2016-18 USD\$61,305
- PI: Fundamental Research Grant (FRGS), awarded by the Malaysian government. PI \$23,620 for 2014 and 2015. Project seeks to undertake initial research into the climatic and environmental history of British Malaya c. 1800-1930.
- CO-PI: Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research CAPaBLE Scheme 2013-15 Atmospheric Circulation Reconstructions over the Earth: Southeast Asia (ACRE SEA) – towards new weather and climate baselines for assessing weather and climate extremes, impacts and risks over Southeast Asia, CBA2013-03NMY/CBA2014-01CMY USD\$36,000

Recent Conferences/Talks (Post-2015 only. Details of others available on request):

- Invited Speaker: Climate and Urban/Rural Development in Colonial Southeast Asia: Drought, climate variability and governance in the Straits Settlements: the 1877-8 strong El Niño in context, Keio University Tokyo, 19-20 March 2020.
- Co-Organiser and Speaker: 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
- Invited Speaker: Climate and Society in Singapore in the 19th and early 20th centuries; National Library Board (Singapore) Histories Series 21.02.2019.
- Speaker and co-organiser: Climate in History, History in Climate, University of Tokyo, 17.11.2018
- Organiser: Asian Extremes: Climate, Meteorology and Disaster in History, 17-18 May, NUS: <https://ari.nus.edu.sg/Event/Detail/ea6c6c85-2242-473c-be7e-75c74aa990ce>
- Speaker, The Fourth Conference of East Asian Environmental History (EAEH 2017) 26-31 Oct 2017, Tianjin, China
- Organiser: Climate Disaster Governance 21-22 September 2017, NUS: <https://ari.nus.edu.sg/Event/Detail/4287bcda-04b4-42a3-b646-40fd36e62da9>
- Organiser, Weather Science, Extreme Weather and Disaster Histories, Hong Kong Maritime Museum 01.03.17
- Organiser: ACRE China Workshop 2, Hong Kong Observatory 02.03.17
- Co-organiser: Disastrous Pasts: New Directions in Asian Disaster History, 21-22 November 2016, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore.
- Invited speaker: Historic Forecasting workshop 21-22 September 2016, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Cachan, Paris.
- Invited speaker: 9th Annual ACRE International Conference, 23-25 August 2016, National Climate Centre (NCC/BCC) of China Meteorological Administration (CMA).
- Invited Distinguished Lecture (Keynote): 13th Annual Meeting Asia Oceania Geosciences Society, 31 July – 5 August, 2016, Beijing.
- Invited Speaker: Crossing Borders: Governing Environmental Disasters in a Global Urban Age in Asia and the Pacific, 5-6 November 2015 at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
- Speaker: 3rd International Conference of East Asian Environmental History (EAEH), 22-25 October 2015, Takamatsu, Japan.
- Invited Speaker: 8th Annual ACRE International Conference held at University of Chile, Santiago, 12-14 October 2015.
- Chair and speaker: Asia-Oceania Geosciences Society 12th Annual Meeting, Suntec, Singapore 2-7 August 2015

Service to the Profession:

- 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.
- 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’: <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>.
- Core 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>