



This is a presentation of the following submitted document:

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# Narratives of the Extreme:

Envisioning Positive Climate Change Futures  
Can it get any wetter?



National Geographic



BBC

Folklore Society Conference. Geography and Environment: Ways of Knowing Water, Landscape and Climate in Anthropocene.

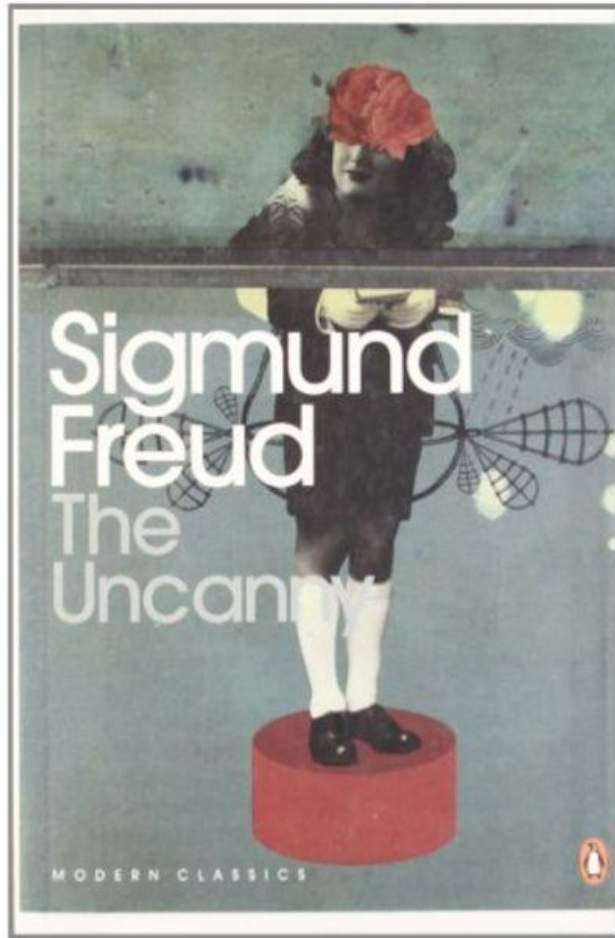
15<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Susie Olczak and Daniel Keech



COUNTRYSIDE  
AND COMMUNITY  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE





ANTHROPOLOGIST  
*Mary Douglas*  
DEFINED

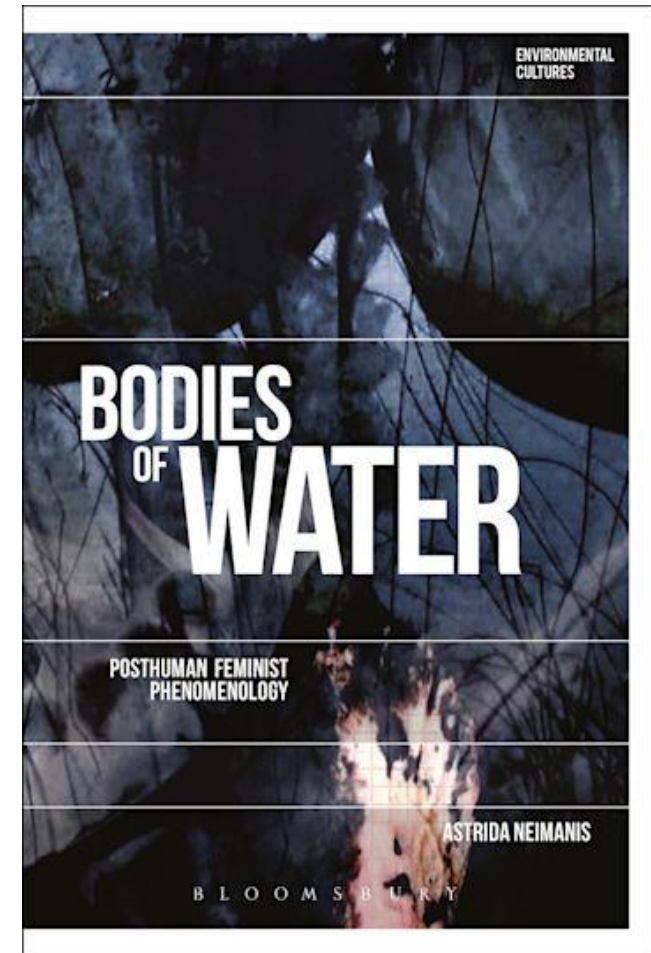
# DIRT

as  
"matter  
out of  
place"

DIRT IS ENTIRELY  
CONTEXTUAL,  
AND WORKS IN  
TANDEM WITH  
HOW WE  
PURPOSEFULLY  
STRUCTURE  
OUR WORLD.

WE SET THE  
BOUNDARIES  
OF WHERE THINGS  
"SHOULD" BE, AND  
'DIRT' DEFIES THEM

for  
example,  
**SOCKS**  
are not inherently  
dirty all the time

A line drawing of a table with a teapot on it. A potted plant is on the left, and a green sock is on the right. A puddle of dark red liquid is on the table. The word 'DIRT' is written in a large, dark red, textured font at the top.

Embedded local knowledge

Knowledge being held by different people + importance of lived experience

# Building a research relationship: cross-/trans-/inter-disciplinary

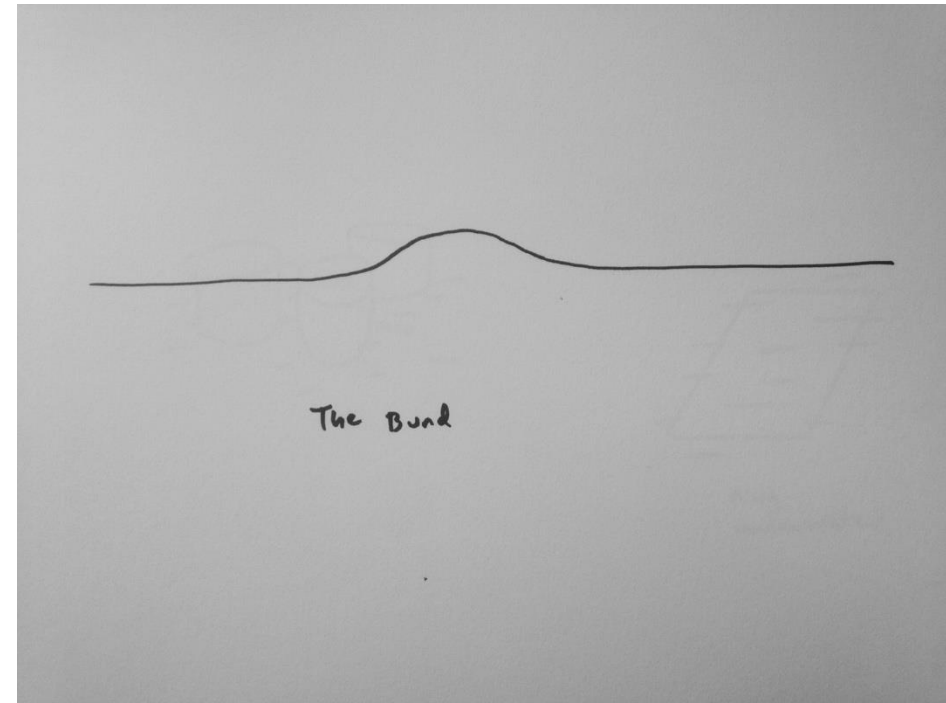
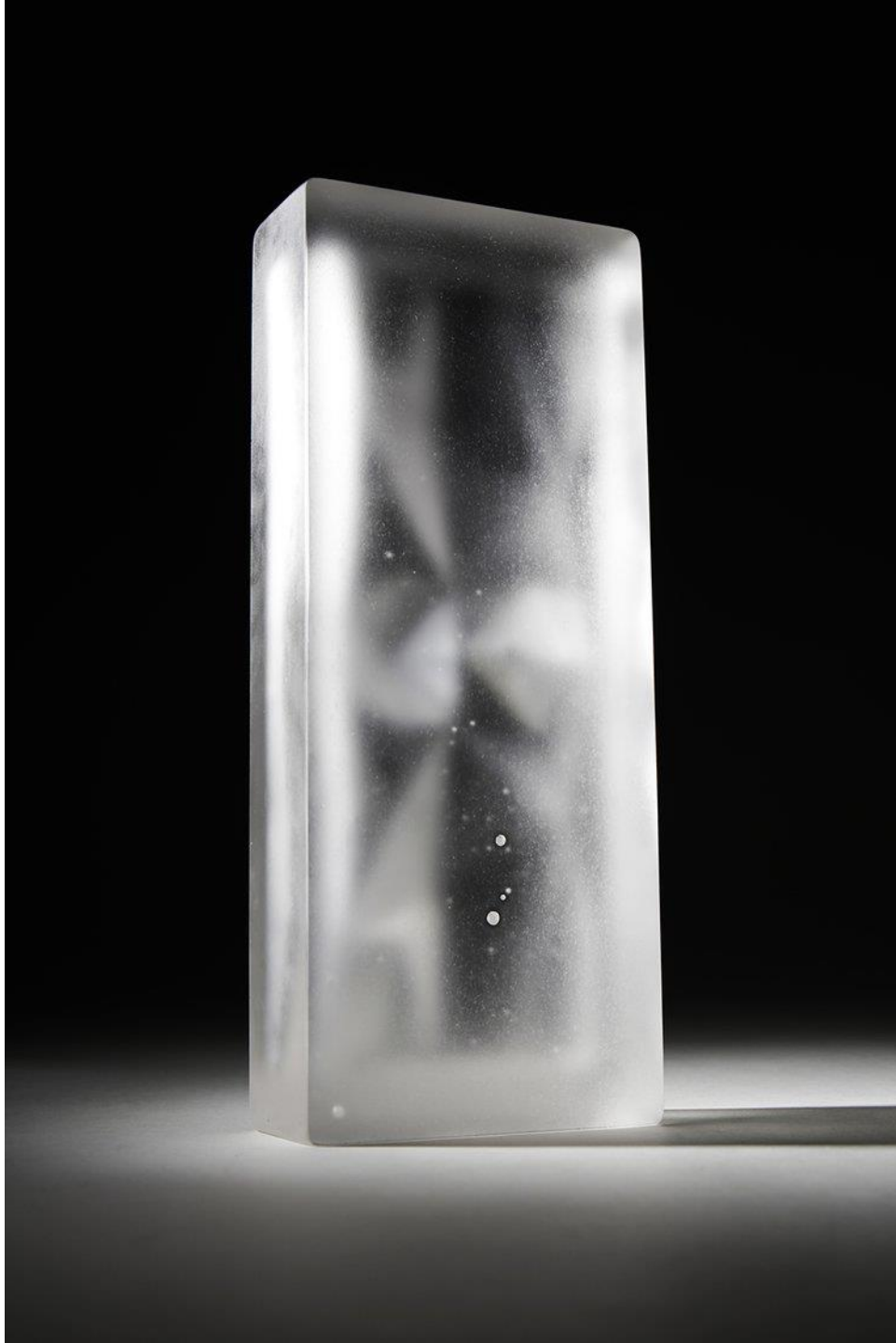
- Arts/CCRI Collaborations
- PhD Co-supervision
- Guest in lectures
- Post-graduate and staff research workshops
- Joint grant applications (incl recent CCT grant to Susie)
- Reaching out to galleries (currently Hestercombe and Arnolfini)
- Artist in Residence at CCRI
- Student commissions at CCRI



**Crossing Boundaries**

**Strengthening rural-urban linkages**

## Flooded Landscapes





Armila, Panama. The Darién Gap with thanks to the Guna People and La Wayaka Current



Photograph: Tim Ireland/Pool/PA







Stills from *Where the Jungle Meets the Sea, The World is Split in Two*. Emma Elliott and Susie Olczak



Pic: [www.gettyimages.co.uk](http://www.gettyimages.co.uk)



<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/apr/14/darien-gap-panama-colombia-us-agreement-migrants>

‘This is the best day; this is when we went canoeing.’ By the time of the second flood, [my son] was around one-and-a-half. ‘We put a pair of armbands on him for health and safety... We could canoe right out of our front door and [shows picture of canoe trip] that’s way out down in the field... It was just so deep, and it was so lovely.’



Still from *Where the Jungle Meets the Sea, The World is Split in Two*. Emma Elliott and Susie Olczak



*Hope*  
2022  
Mixed media  
Armila, Panama

## Role of the Media



Sun newspaper sends a model to flooded village to cheer them up





Landscape Research



ISSN: (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/clar20>

## The submersion and adaptation of routines in the Somerset Levels and Moors

Daniel Keech & Mike Ricketts

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To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/01426397.2021.1989392>



*It's going to be okay*  
*Mixed media*  
2022

# Joint efforts and future aspirations

- Joint **writing**: this time in an arts journal
- Research **funding** bids (= time to escape our disciplinary commercial needs).
- Conferences / exhibitions
- Broadening collaborations outside University of Gloucestershire
- Discursive **events**



Narratives of the Extreme: Envisioning Positive Climate Change Futures



Water capture: Can interdisciplinary practice change systems and policy?