

GRACE WRIGHT-ARORA

ECONOMIC AND WATER GEOGRAPHER

Oxford, UK
grace.wright@ouce.ac.uk

EXTERNAL AFFILIATIONS

- Visiting researcher ICTA-UAB

Autonomous University of Barcelona

QUALIFICATIONS

- University of Oxford
2023-present
- University of Oxford
2022-2023
- University of Bristol
2018-2021

DPhil Geography and the Environment

- Awarded ESRC fully-funded Grand Union DTP for MSc + PhD
- Title: The many faces of urban blue capitalism: tracing material and embodied conditions surrounding water financialisation in Mexico City

MSc Environmental Governance (distinction)

- Thesis on river pollution in English rivers (working with activist organisations in Bristol, UK)
- Used Freedom of Information requests to the NHS to verify interview claims about cholera and Hepatitis resurgence

BA Anthropology and Archaeology (first class)

- 76% in thesis on urban wild swimming during Covid-19
- Awarded Outstanding Achievement in Anthropology award

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- (2026) Gilbert, D., Gasparro, D., Kallis, G., ... **Wright-Arora, G.** and Varvarousis, A. Encountering Degrowth. Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space. OnlineFirst.
- (forthcoming) Becker, M., **Wright-Arora, G.** and McGivern, A. Standards of care: new pathways to embed just transition into corporate climate strategies. *Geoforum*.
- (2026) **Wright-Arora, G.** Intervention - "How Climate Finance is Reshaping Water Governance in Mexico City". *Antipode Online*.
- (2025) **Wright-Arora, G.** and Bazin, W. Review of The Case for Degrowth. *Journal of Political Ecology*.
- (2024) **Wright-Arora, G.**, James, M., Troiano, M., Sidwell, N., Boyle, J., Barbrook-Johnson, P., Hirons, M. The role of publics and deliberation at the environmental science-policy interface. *Agile Initiative*, University of Oxford, UK.
- (2024) Troiano, M., Sidwell, N., ... **Wright-Arora, G.**, Barbrook-Johnson, P. and Hirons, M. Impact and collaboration in environmental research: moving universities from evidence producers to co-producers. *Agile Initiative*, University of Oxford, UK.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- (2024-present) **Oxford Net Zero, Oxford School of Geography**. Working on 1-year research project on climate justice in corporate net-zero standards governance. Outputs include white papers and 2 forthcoming journal articles. Previously worked on ACCESS-UK project on justice in net zero standards.
- (2024) **Infracursions Project, University of Bristol**. Research assistant for Dr Amy Penfield (Department of Anthropology) as part of ERC-funded project 'Infracursions'. Produced literature review on gender and extractivism in Amazonia. Currently working on co-authored paper.
- (2024) **Agile Initiative, Oxford Martin School**. Research assistant for Drs Mark Hirons and Pete Barbrook-Johnson working on public participation in the environmental science-policy interface as part of NERC-funded research project. Lead author on resulting publication, co-author on second publication.
- (2022) **University of Bristol**. Research assistant working for Dr Amy Penfield, supported acquisition of successful application for £1 million ERC research grant for Infracursions project. Wrote literature review on legal geographies and anthropologies around mining in Amazonia.
- (2022) **Kings College London**. Research assistant for Dr Leslie-Anne Duvic Paoli (Department of Law) working on climate assemblies. Researched climate assemblies in Finland, Scotland, and Luxembourg.
- (2017) **Shelter**. Worked as a Research Intern for Shelter, conducting research to improve accessibility of relevant services for people without houses.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

- (2026) **POLLEN Conference of Political Ecology** (University of Barcelona) 'Calculating knowledges for blue capitalism: the production of water resilience as a governing strategy in Mexico City.'
- (2025) **Society for Latin American Studies Conference** (Bristol, UK). 'Decolonial water infrastructures? Alternative hydraulic systems and expanding participatory governance in Mexico City's water "dystopia".'
- (2024) **International Workshop on Commoning** (ICTA-UAB, Barcelona). 'Theorizing a decolonial approach to water metabolic commons: water insecurity and infrastructure in Mexico City.'
- (2024) **Royal Geographical Society with IBG Conference** (RGS, London). 'Decolonial approaches to water metabolisms: water insecurity and infrastructure in Mexico City.'
- (2024) **European Society for Ecological Economics & International Degrowth Conference** (Pontevedra, Galicia). 'Alternative infrastructure in Latin American urbanisms: the case study of water in Mexico City.'

TEACHING

- (2025) **Department of Geography, Autonomous University of Mexico**. Planned and taught lectures and seminars on water geography to second and third year undergraduates reading Geography (Spanish).
- (2024) **Institute of Environment and Technology, Autonomous University of Barcelona**. Teaching assistant for Master's in Degrowth and Political Ecology on unit on 'The Barcelona School of Political Ecology', working for Dr Giacomo D'Alisa. Assisting in classes & admin.
- (2024) **School of Geography, University of Oxford**. Ran tutorials on theories of planetary urbanization for unit on 'New Approaches to Urban Theory' with Prof. Alex Vasudevan. Marking second and third year undergraduate essays.
- (2020) **Debate Mate**, UK. Selected to run exclusive "Debate Box" sessions for young boys at risk of social exclusion

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- (2026) **Revitalising Political Ecology at Oxford**. Organised, funded and invited speakers for public event
- (2025) **Homage to Karen Bakker, Autonomous University of Mexico**. Public talk (Spanish).
- (2025) From Dystopia to Utopia? Researching in the Shadow of Mexico City's Water Crisis. Publication in the **Grand Union Doctoral Training Partnership Magazine**.
- (2025) Decolonising Degrowth, **Institute of Environment and Technology, Autonomous University of Barcelona**. Facilitated public talk by Dr Ritu Verma on Decolonising Degrowth.
- (2025) **SwimmingPod**. Podcast. 'Grace Wright-Arora, and water pollution in England's rivers.'
- (2024) **Agile Initiative, Oxford Martin School**. Webinar 'The Agile Initiative: Role of publics and deliberation at the environmental science-policy interface.'
- (2024) **Exploring Creative Expressions of Water Justice**. Hosted and spoke at community documentary screening and panel discussion in Oxford.
- 2024) **Eighty Sita Productions**. Blog_post 'These Things Keep Catching Me Off Guard- reflections of an academic researching water justice movements'.
- (2023) **Kendal Mountain Film Festival**. Panel discussion on feature documentary 'Rave on for the Avon'.
- (2022) **SwimmingPod**. Podcast and publication of undergraduate dissertation. 'Grace Wright-Arora, and Cold Water swimming as an act of resistance.;

AWARDS

- (2025) **The Right to the Discipline Award**, Antipode Journal of Radical Geography (£10,000)
- (2022) **1+3 ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership** (Grand Union, Geography Pathway). Fully funded master's and doctoral study at University of Oxford.
- (2022) **Cambridge Master's and Kings College Studentship** for master's in Anthropocene Studies at University of Cambridge (declined)
- (2021) **Outstanding achievement in Anthropology and Archaeology Award** (University of Bristol).

TRAINING & SKILLS

- (2025) Centre for Investigative Journalism courses: (1) Investigating Climate Finance, (2) Financial Investigations, (3) Supply Chain Investigations
- (2024) DELE Spanish B2 certification (full professional proficiency)
- (2024, 2023) ICTA-UAB Degrowth Summer School
- (2023) Doughnut Economics course with Kate Raworth
- (2023) Green European Foundation ICTA-UAB Summer School
- (2023) Safety in Overseas Fieldwork course
- (2023) Research Ethics course