

# *IPE TIG NEWSLETTER*

*Navigating Turbulence Together -  
Reflections, Resources, and Renewal*

## **Rooted in Water, Grounded in Care**

In these times of uncertainty and exhaustion, we are being called back to what grounds us. Whether through community work or quiet moments of personal reflection, many of us are digging deep—seeking to better understand what it means to care for ourselves and each other.

During the global pandemic, we were urged to isolate, to pause, to reflect on what we truly need to emerge as more whole versions of ourselves. Those messages became so familiar they often felt like just another task added to an already overwhelming list of responsibilities—professional, personal, and everything in between.

And then, as if on cue, the world asked again: What else could possibly go wrong?

This newsletter is our offering—a reminder that renewal is still possible. Through shared resources, stories, and moments of connection, we hope to nourish the seeds we continue to plant. Seeds of strength, of knowledge, of resilience. Even in the face of uncertainty, we keep tending to what matters.



Like water, our work may move quietly, but it carves paths—shaping a future grounded in reciprocity and care.

Whether you're showing up for your community, nurturing the land, speaking truth in institutions, or simply learning how to rest—know that your work matters. The ripples you're creating will reach far beyond what you can see.

We are rooted in hope and guided by the quiet knowing that a better world is not just possible—it's already taking shape.



Greetings to Our Relatives and Colleagues Across Our Networks,

EvalIndigenous is building a growing collection of graduate theses and dissertations that explore Indigenous evaluation, research, and related themes from around the world. We believe that the work of students—whether master's, doctoral, or other postgraduate levels—offers vital insights, grounded in lived realities and Indigenous ways of knowing.

We're inviting you to share your thesis or dissertation so that we can feature it in an upcoming issue of our newsletter and include it as part of our public Indigenous Evaluation Resources collection on the EvalIndigenous website.

### **What we're looking for:**

- Theses/dissertations focused on Indigenous evaluation, methodologies, knowledge systems, or related areas such as wellbeing, governance, education, or environmental stewardship
- Work that centres Indigenous perspectives and values
- Completed (and ideally publicly available) postgraduate work, regardless of the year it was submitted

### **How to share:**

- Please upload your thesis (or the citation and link to it) using our shared Google Drive folder.
- Or email it or the citation and link directly to us at: [fiona@evalindigenous.net](mailto:fiona@evalindigenous.net)

### **Why share?**

Your research will contribute to a collective knowledge base that supports Indigenous evaluators, students, and communities globally. Sharing your thesis also helps amplify Indigenous voices, builds connections across contexts, and inspires others working in this space.

Inclusion in the collection does not constitute endorsement. Rather, we aim to make visible the breadth and depth of Indigenous scholarship on evaluation and related themes.

With appreciation,

And you may want to sign off with your name or add another email where folks can send their thesis.

Kindest,

Fiona Cram, PhD (Māori - Ngāti Pāhauwera) and Dr. Nicole Bowman ([Lunaape/Mohican](#))

# Sowing Seeds

In this moment—one marked by ongoing crisis, deep exhaustion, and a collective sense of disorientation—I'm doing what I can to stay rooted in what matters: community, truth-telling, and the quiet but powerful work of planting seeds.

I'm moving through the world with more intention—learning to listen deeply in some spaces and speak unapologetically in others. I'm stepping up where I'm called, stepping back where others need room, and setting boundaries where harm persists. I'm letting go of spaces that no longer align, while leaning into hard conversations that feel uncomfortable but necessary. This, to me, is what care looks like in action. This is what resistance looks like in practice.

I've been planting—literally and figuratively. Sowing seeds that I hope will one day bear fruit far beyond what I can see right now. Seeds of healing, of mutual aid, of joy. Seeds that I hope will take root not only in my community, but will reverberate outward—across borders, across generations. I'm not waiting for institutions to fix what they've broken. I'm turning toward people, toward the land, toward ancestral wisdom.



To navigate this season in my journey, I'm leaning into the wisdom in my gut—what I know, deep down, are the voices of my ancestors guiding me. Those voices tell me when to move, when to rest, when to fight, and when to heal. I trust it. It keeps me aligned with purpose and integrity.

More than ever, I'm asking: What can we each give that doesn't require money, a grant, permission, or a title? What gifts do we already carry that can be offered in service of collective care and transformation? We all have something—a way to contribute that is rooted in love and resistance, beyond our jobs and degrees.

That's where my energy is. On building a world rooted in reciprocity, healing, and liberation. It may feel small in the grand scheme, but the work we do in our own communities matters. It builds toward something. We plant now, even when the ground is shaky. We plant anyway. Because we know something better is possible—and we're not waiting to begin, nor asking for permission to do so.-

Weweni saa na,  
Selena "Ogichidaakwe" Garza



# **Sintering, quiet resilience, and liminal spaces: A reflection on Leanne Betasamosake Simpson's Theory of Water**

The book *Theory of Water: Nishnaabe maps to the times ahead* by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson is a thoughtful and powerful invitation to reimagine our relationship with the living world, especially with water as reciprocal, attentive, and rooted in respect. In a time marked by ecological collapse, rising authoritarianism, and persistent social injustice, Leanne Simpson turns toward the snow and ice of her homeland, asking what it means to listen to water with an open mind and to understand not only the ground we walk on but also the waters that surround and flow through us. In Simpson's view, water is not merely a life source but a vast relational network, an emergent theory of internationalism that connects all beings and ways of knowing. This book is a profound reminder that the work of protecting land and water begins with deep listening, humility, and relational accountability to the knowledge systems that sustain life.

Leanne Simpson reflects on the liminal space of water as a complex cycle that spans various scales of time: from days in the atmosphere to decades in snow and glaciers, thousands of years in the ocean, tens of thousands of years underground, and hundreds of thousands of years locked within the Antarctic ice shelf. Water is in continuous motion. "Every drop is all the water that has ever been on the planet. And all life shares this water" (Simpson, 2025, p. 51). Simpson's reflections on sintering as bonding, on water's quiet but powerful and persistent resilience that carves stones over time, shaping futures through presence, not force, and navigating uncertainty can be seen as dwelling in a liminal space between colonial and Indigenous worldviews, between destruction and renewal, between known histories and emerging futures.

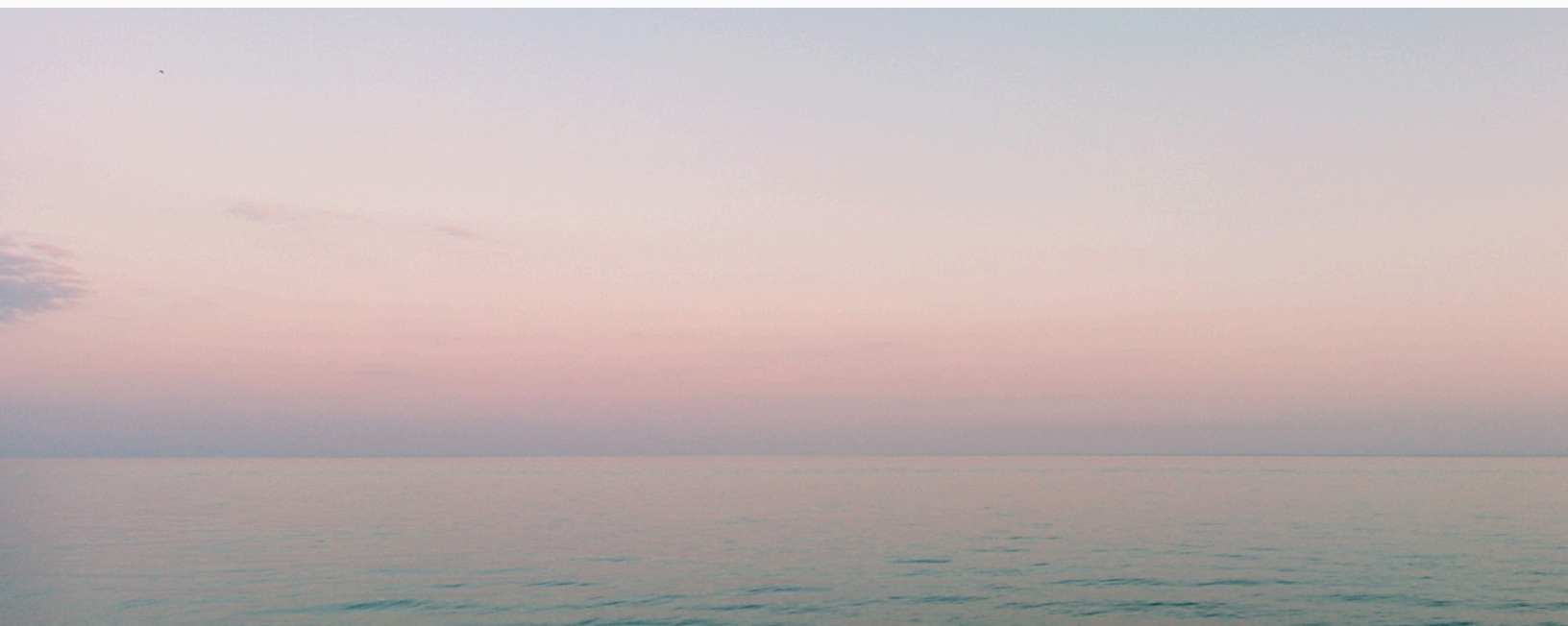
As I read Theory of Water, I find myself reflecting on my own experience as a global Indigenous woman in academia, a kind of liminal space in itself. I stand at the intersection of multiple worlds and identities, continually navigating what it means to belong, to resist, and to reimagine. My name, tied to the great River Lena that flows through my homeland, the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) in northeast Russia, echoes this invitation to be in relationship with water. Theory of Water offers me not only a framework, but also a sense of purpose and hope, a current to hold onto as I continue to explore how to live, think, and act in alignment with the waters and lands that shape who we are and who we might become.

The acrostic poem is my little poetic reflection on the reading.

*Working continuously – carving, creating,  
Adapting, multiplying – from droplets to ocean.  
Transforming tirelessly – flowing, connecting,  
Emerging, embracing, and engaging endlessly.  
Ripples, waves, storms, and puddles – life in motion.*

**Lena Dedyukina (she/her)**

Simpson, L. B. (2025). Theory of Water: Nishnaabe maps to the times ahead. Knopf Canada

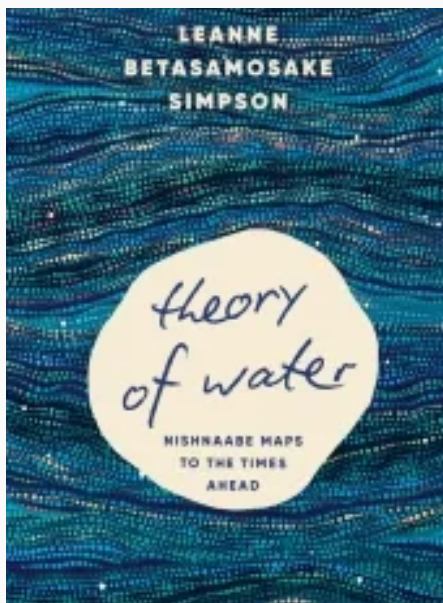




# Strong Nations



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**Rooted in relationship. Guided by purpose. Nourishing resilience.**

In this season of uncertainty and disruption, many changemakers find themselves standing at a threshold — wondering what's next, what's sustainable, and how to move forward with clarity and care.

Three Sisters Coaching is a woman-led and values-aligned collective that offers coaching as a space of restoration, growth, and renewal. We walk alongside individuals and teams navigating change, seeking clarity, or reaching toward new possibilities — offering a steady hand, a listening heart, and tools for resilience and leadership.

We believe that story is sacred — and that each person's professional journey is shaped by community, culture, and lived experience. Coaching offers a space to honor that story, reconnect with one's inner compass, and draw strength from personal and collective resilience.

With over 65 years of collective experience, we help individuals and teams:

- Strengthen self-awareness and inner grounding
- Lead with integrity through transition and complexity
- Reimagine purpose and possibility — professionally and personally



We offer 1:1 and team coaching, with sliding-scale and low-bono options for those affected by funding cuts, role changes, or organizational uncertainty.

*"We created this collective so no one has to journey through transition alone. Coaching can be a space of solidarity — where your voice is heard, your story is honored, and your next step becomes clear."* — The Three Sisters

Learn more or schedule a complimentary consult: [www.3sisterscoaching.com](http://www.3sisterscoaching.com)

# IPE TIG members | 2024 AEA Conference



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