

SIGNALS

NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back & Happy New Year!

Dear SIGNALS Members,

I'd like use this issue as an opportunity to welcome the newest Sustainable Energy cohort and congratulate them on completing their first semester. It's my hope that they'll feel welcomed into the SIGNALS network and that they find value and friendship within the community, as many of us have and continue to find, over the years to come! I'd also like to wish the exiting cohort the best of luck as they enter their last semester – I hope that SIGNALS network can play a role in your careers moving forward!

I would also like to thank all of those who came out to our SIGNALS BBQs in May and September – especially our hosts: John & Elizabeth and Silke & Serban! It was so great to see everyone – old and new and share these opportunities to come together and reconnect as a network after so much time apart.

On the note of coming together after so much time apart, the (new) SIGNALS Executive and I are so excited to announce that the SIGNALS gala will be returning! Please come join us on **Friday January 27, 2023**, at Lago. Make sure to keep an eye on your email and social media, and be sure to tell your friends and old classmates – we promise to make the gala comeback worthwhile!

Please enjoy this third issue of the SIGNALS newsletter. Inside you'll find an introduction to our new SIGNALS Executive (featuring familiar faces and some new ones too!), an interview with MA SEP Alumni, Balie Walker, a refresh on what SIGNALS is and an update on our newsletter publication schedule, and a short piece that presents the question of approaching reconciliation and Canada's net-zero transition and climate targets.

In the spirit of this new year, I would like to thank the members of the SIGNALS Executive, new and old, for their continued dedication, time and support. None of this would be possible without them. And thank you to our Members, without you, SIGNALS wouldn't exist.

Wishing you all a fantastic, new year filled with health and happiness!

Leia Jones
SIGNALS President on behalf of the SIGNALS Executive

Newsletter Highlights

A note from SIGNALS President, Leia Jones

Meet the new SIGNALS Executive

Alumni Feature - Balie Walker

Our Perspective – Reconciling Reconciliation & Net Zero

Get in Touch!

 **Email:** president@signalsnetwork.ca

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NEWS, UPDATES, & UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 27, 2023 - SIGNALS Gala Returns at Lago!** Time & Location to be communicated via SIGNALS social media.
- **SIGNALS Mentorship Program:** there's still time to become a mentor or mentee! Check out SIGNALS social media for more details on how to apply!
- **March 2023 – SIGNALS International Women's Day Event**
Details to be communicated in the new year.



SIGNALS NETWORK
CARLETON UNIVERSITY

MEET THE NEW SIGNALS EXECUTIVE



Leia Jones (she/her/hers)

SIGNALS President, Alumni (Policy, 2021)

- Currently working as a program officer at CIRNAC
- As president, Leia is responsible for overseeing SIGNALS and being the liaison between the SIGNALS committee and our wonderful community.
- **Interests:** Community energy systems, walking in the woods, tennis, and spending time with her beloved cat Holly!

Stephan Schott (he/him/his)

SIGNALS Faculty Mentor, Professor



- Stephan is a Professor at Carleton with a PhD in Natural Resource and Environmental Economics.
- Stephan has substantial experience in the Canadian Arctic where he is leading several major Arctic research projects. His research currently focuses on Northern remote Indigenous communities, alternative energy and sustainable development in the Arctic, fishery and wildlife management.

Samantha Jarvis (she/her/hers)

Co-Communications Manager, Alumni (Policy, 2021)



- Currently working as a policy analyst at NRCan and completing her GDIP in climate risk management at the University of Waterloo.
- Sam's research interests include the use of climate change data to derive useful information and its importance in decision making processes
- **Interests:** Rock climbing and travelling to new and exciting places!

Afreenish Yusirah

Co-Communications Manager, 2nd year Student (Policy)



- Policy & Program Analyst at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Afreenish is particularly interested in understanding how food systems work within Northern Canada
- Interests: Reading, gardening, and brewing and drinking coffee

MEET THE NEW SIGNALS EXECUTIVE



Jamie Ness (she/her/hers)

Newsletter Editor, Alumni (Policy, 2022)

- Currently working as a Policy Analyst at NRCan working on Indigenous access to capital and economic reconciliation.
- Jamie's research interests include ecosystem services, natural capital, and economic reconciliation
- **Interests:** Skiing, hiking, bouldering, reading, and adventuring with her dog Juniper and her partner!

Lauren Johnson (she/her/hers)

SIGNALS Email Supervisor, Alumni (Policy, 2021)



- Currently working as a Policy Analyst at ECCC in the Electricity and Combustion division.
- Lauren's research interests include climate justice, the human dimensions of building energy use, and hydrogen's application in the heavy-duty transportation sector.
- **Interests:** cross-country skiing, swimming, canoeing, and generally just enjoying nature (and loving her cat, Sufian!)

Hasrat Kathuria (she/her/hers)

Event Planner, 1st Year Student (Policy)



- As a new immigrant to Canada, I am currently discovering myself and accommodating to a different culture. My current interests are climate change and the impact it can have (risk assessment) and how transitions in energy can solve the climate crisis.
- **Interests:** Travelling and exploring nature, hiking, and walking along the beach!

Andreas Malango

SIGNALS Treasurer, 2nd year Student (Policy)



- Andreas' academic and research interests include (but aren't limited to) Indigenous Policy, Mining Policy, Energy Democracy, Energy Poverty and Efficiency, and Energy Storage.
- Andreas hopes to advocate for equal access to energy by all Canadians especially vulnerable communities such as Indigenous people and visible minorities.

MEET THE NEW SIGNALS EXECUTIVE



Aaron Martin (he/him/his)
Event Planner, 2nd Year Student (Engineering)

- Currently working at the National Research Council of Canada
- Aaron's academic interests are sustainable engineering
- **Interests:** Baking great bread, bouldering, cycling, martial arts

Victoria Asi (she/her/hers)

Alumni Relations Rep, Alumni (MAsc, 2022)



- MAsc engineering alumni with research focused on on the acoustics and characterizing of noise emission from small wind turbines.
- **Interests:** Cooking, meeting people.



Lilian Moon
Gala Planner & General Support, 2nd Year Student (Policy)

- Lilian's academic interests include international collaboration, climate justice, sustainability and advancing untapped human resource.
- **Interests:** In her free time (what's that?), Lilian enjoys sudoku, reading and trying new food.

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR THE SIGNALS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM!

There's still time to become a mentor or mentee! Be sure to check out the program details on our website and social media!

YOUR STUDENT REPS



Sarina de Havelyn

1st Year Rep - Policy

Sarina has worked as chairperson of the University of Victoria's Students' Society where she successfully lobbied the University to divest their funds from fossil fuels as well as worked for the BC Ministry of Health in the Mental Health and Substance Use division as a Junior Policy Analyst. She is excited to direct her attention toward bringing communities to climate policy solutions. In her free time, she goes to the park with her dog, Sweetpea, and reads sci-fi!

Atiq Khan

1st Year Rep - Engineering



Atiq is a 1st year, MEng Sustainable Energy student (Mechanical conversion focus). His current academic interests are Solar PV. On his personal time, Atiq does phone photography (IG:@atiq_2407), and has been part of Toastmasters for more than 2 years. Oh, and he can speak for hours on chairs (worked for a start-up as a product designer that made assistive chairs for the elderly and so in the process became low-key obsessed with the design of different types of chairs).

Naishadh Singapuri

2nd Year Rep – Engineering



Naishadh is a 2nd year MEng student with a Specialisation in Climate Change. Naishadh's current academic interest is Climate Advocacy because he believes that in order to achieve Paris Agreement Targets before 2050, we need people who intrigue in providing solutions to problems. In his undergrad, Naishadh worked on the sponsorship committee in a sports club for his university. In his free time, Naishadh likes to go on walks, workout and collect bottled cork.

Hayden Walker (he/him/his)

2nd Year Rep – Policy & Mentorship Program Lead



Hayden's main main research interest is the decarbonization of the Canadian oil and gas industry to most advantageously achieve Canada's national 2050 net zero emissions target. Upon graduating, Hayden plans to work within the public sector at the federal level to help Canada achieve its emissions targets in whichever capacity he can. Hayden's interests include mountain biking and football.

ALUMNI FEATURE – Balie Walker



SIGNALS Executive Member Samantha Jarvis recently had a chance to (virtually) sit down with familiar face and Sustainable Energy (policy-stream) alum, Balie Walker to discuss her time at Carleton, her move from working as an analyst in public sector to pursuing her PhD at Queens.

Below is a summary of Samantha's interview with Balie.

Q1: Where are you completing your PhD?

Balie is currently in her second year of her PhD in Geography at Queens University in the Department of Geography and Planning.

Balie's research focus under the supervision of Dr. Warren Mabee in the Renewable Energy Development and Implementation Lab is on energy geography.

Q2: Tell us more about your research!

Balie's research seeks to investigate the role of disruptive events on the Canadian energy transition.

The main goal of her research is to study how disruptive events influence the complex variables that dictate energy system development, using examples like climate change and COVID-19, and to assess and quantify the extent and duration of these changes on the energy system to propel decarbonization.

Q3: What made you decide to pursue your PhD? How has this differed from your time in the public service?

In responding to this question, Balie noted that while in the public service, she saw a lot of the roles she would want to pursue in the future and many mentors recommended this avenue to her to reach her goals. For Balie, a PhD was an important avenue for her to continue to build comprehensive research skills and her own toolbox of skills to help address the fundamental need for decarbonization in Canada.

Q4: What advice would you give to someone looking to apply for a PhD program?

Balie mentioned that much like applying for a Masters program, the PhD application process is quite straightforward. However, the most importance difference in Balie's view is crafting a research statement. Balie noted that when applying for a PhD, you really need to think about *why* you want to pursue a PhD and why you're applying to a specific institution and program.

Balie stated that when applying, you should take care to tailor your research statement for what a specific program specializes in. Balie also noted that when selecting a program, the advice of those around you is very important. Balie had a strong support system from her supervisors during her time at Carleton who helped her navigate the process and select programs and supervisors that fit her long-term aspirations.

When applying to a program Balie emphasised the importance of speaking with potential supervisors and current and former students to learn if the institution, program, and lab to ensure they will support you and foster your research, and match your learning and research style.

Q5: I know you completed an Undergrad in Geology (Earth and Space Exploration) at Arizona State, so I must ask what is your favourite rock?

Balie's favourite rock type is a metamorphic rock, a specific example of a metamorphic rock is a gneiss. Metamorphic rocks are complex and interesting, starting as an igneous or sedimentary rocks that undergoing change to become something quite different. This is relatable to all aspects of life, even our energy systems which are undergoing change now. Gneiss varies geographically and locally, forming under intense heat and pressure and is foliated.



Gneiss - Photograph by Benjamin Williamson

OUR PERSPECTIVES: RECONCILING RECONCILIATION AND NET-ZERO

Climate change and reconciliation with Indigenous groups across Canada are two of the federal government's most prominent (and pressing) priorities. The transition to net-zero is no longer a question of *if* but rather a question of *when*. A key piece of this transition is ensuring that Indigenous groups are at the center of the policy and decision-making involved – as Indigenous people and their lands are among the most likely to be disproportionately impacted by the transition. "At least 56% of advanced critical minerals projects, 35% of top solar sites, and 44% of the better wind sites involve Indigenous territory" (Stackhouse, 2022).

With this in mind, as we move into our transition, honouring our country's commitment to advance reconciliation with Indigenous groups will be key. Part of reconciliation and the path to self-governance and self-determination is economic reconciliation and advancing Indigenous groups' economic independence and enabling and respecting their ability and right to make investment and other economic decisions that align with their communities' needs and interests and that bring value. This means that as we move along the path to net-zero, there may be times where the priorities of economic reconciliation and climate change and the net-zero transition are at odds. However, the path to net-zero is a path that's jointly paved, and to balance these differences, we need to come to the table together with open minds to develop policy that benefits and honours Indigenous groups, our climate, and our economy equally. In this way we will be able to equally prioritize and deliver on our commitments.

WHAT IS SIGNALS & THE SIGNALS NEWSLETTER?

SIGNALS is an alumni network that aims to build a professional network between alumni, students, and faculty that facilitates employment placements, engages in discussions around sustainability and organizes public speaker events.

The SIGNALS newsletter aims to bring together our ever-growing community of alumni and students, new and old. The goal of the newsletter is to profile SIGNALS events, keep you updated on what the Executive is working on, and showcase the amazing work alumni, professors, and students are doing!

We want to keep the newsletter fluid and dynamic and are open to any ideas you may have for future editions. Together we hope that we can build and shape this newsletter to be an effective tool for bringing the SIGNALS community together.

Moving forward, we will be moving to a bi-annual schedule to ensure we're bringing you the best info without clogging your inbox!

We will continue to reach out via email and social media – we hope to see and talk to you there!

OUR PERSPECTIVES

Our vision for this section of the newsletter is to have a member of the SIGNALS Executive team, or guest writer share their perspective on a current, emerging, or exciting energy or environment topic!

Are you interested in sharing your perspective on a topic? Is there something specific you want to hear about?

We would be happy to hear from you! Please contact us at president@signalsnetwork.ca or reach out to Jamie Ness directly at jamie_ness@hotmail.com.



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