

Benjamin J. Kapron, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Environmental Studies

2016 – 2024

York University, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Program of Study: Settler Decolonial Pedagogy, Ethics, and Epistemology of Land
- Dissertation: The Survivance of Water and Rock: An Environmental History and Settler Autoethnography of Nishnaabeg Thought Worlds, Other-than-Human Personhood, and the Trent-Severn Waterway
Nominated for Doctoral Dissertation Prize
- Comprehensive Areas: 1. Pedagogies and Epistemologies of Land; 2. The Survivance of Land in the Literature of Indigenous Peoples
- Supervisory Committee: Dr. Martha Stiegman (Supervisor), Dr. Leesa Fawcett, Dr. Deborah McGregor
- Exam Committee: Dr. Liette Gilbert (Chair), Dr. Nicole Latulippe (External Examiner), Dr. Adeyemi Olusola (Internal Examiner)

Master in Environmental Studies

2014 – 2016

York University, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Program of Study: Transforming Relationships between Settlers, Indigenous Peoples, and Animals
- Major Paper: Cacophonous Settler Grounded Normativity: Interrelationality with the More-Than-Human World as a Path for Decolonial Transformation
Awarded to *Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Series*
- Areas of Study: Environmental Philosophy, Environmental Ethics, Indigenous Worldviews, Settler Colonialism, Decolonization, Critical Animal Studies, Critical Environmental Education
- Supervisor: Dr. Leesa Fawcett
- Additional Credentials: Environmental / Sustainability Education Diploma

Honours Bachelor of Science with Distinction

2010 – 2013

University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Concentration: Zoology and Philosophy (Double Major)
- Areas of Study: Animal Behaviour, Evolutionary Science, Ecology, Continental Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind, Political Philosophy, Bioethics

Additional Programs Contributing to Completion of Undergraduate Degree

Bachelor of Arts

Winter 2010

Trent University, Peterborough, ON, Canada

- Areas of Study: Social Science, Epistemology, Animal Behaviour

Bachelor of Arts (Academic Exchange)

Fall 2009

Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco

- Areas of Study: Political Science, Social Science, History

Bachelor of Social Sciences

Fall 2008 – Spring 2009

University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada

- Concentration: Conflict Studies and Human Rights

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Kapron, B. J. (2025). "So Great Was the Rush of Water": Speculative Histories of Other-than-Human Survivance Against the Trent-Severn Waterway. *Radical Histories of Decolonization*, issue of *Radical History Review*, 153, 34-59. <https://doi.org/10.1215/01636545-11853764>

Phare, M. S., **B. J. Kapron**, E. R. Hoppe, C. Sklar, M. Miltenberger, J. Bear, L. Bill, O. M. Brandes, P. Wilson, R. Farthing-Nichol, and D. Helmesi. (2025). Reconciliatory water governance: Reflections on the Collaborative Leadership Initiative as a means of transforming water governance in Canada. *The Next Wave in Water Governance*, special feature of *Ecology and Society*, 30(4). <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-16591-300417>

I was the principal author of the article manuscript. The other authors are members of the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources and/or the Collaborative Leadership Initiative team who helped to conceive of and design the article, as well as providing feedback on the manuscript.

Kapron, B. J. (2025). Other-than-Human Survivance Against the Trent-Severn Waterway. *Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History*, Spring 2025(4). <https://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/9935>

Kapron, B. J. (2022). Storying futures of the always-already extinct: Challenging human exceptionalism; exploring animal survivance. *Memories and Futurities*, issue of *UnderCurrents: Journal of Critical Environmental Studies*, 21, 26-34. <https://doi.org/10.25071/2292-4736/40296>

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Iannicello, S., and B. J. Kapron (Eds.) (2022). Memories and Futurities. *UnderCurrents: Journal of Critical Environmental Studies*, 21. <https://currents.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/currents/issue/view/2205>

Kapron, B. J. (2018, April 27). A triptych of thoughts on the knowledge of Land/T'sing ninaagaadek ezhi naanaagdoowendming wih kendmauzihwin zhi weh 'kiing. *Manitoulin Island Summer Historical Institute (MISHI)*. <https://activehistory.ca/blog/2018/04/27/a-triptych-of-thoughts-on-the-knowledge-of-land/>

Kapron, B. J. (2017). Review of the book *A Canadian climate of mind: Passages from fur to energy and beyond*, by T. B. Leduc. *Environmental Justice*, issue of *UnderCurrents: Journal of Critical Environmental Studies*, 20, 52-53. <https://doi.org/10.25071/2292-4736/40307>

THESES

Kapron, B. J. (2024). The survivance of water and rock: An environmental history and settler autoethnography of Nishnaabeg thought worlds, other-than-human personhood, and the Trent-Severn Waterway (Doctoral Dissertation). Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada. <https://hdl.handle.net/10315/42944>

Kapron, B. J. (2016). Cacophonous settler grounded normativity: Interrelationality with the more-than-human world as a path for decolonial transformation (Master's Major Research Paper). *Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Series*, 22(16). Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada. <http://hdl.handle.net/10315/34817>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Kapron, B. J. (2026, forthcoming). "Remember These Were Once Living Persons": *Natural History Museums and Coercive Communication with the Non-Human Dead*. Communication with the Dead, The Roles of the Agency of the Dead in the Lives of Individuals in Contemporary Society (DEAGENCY), University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia. July 1-3, 2026.

Kapron, B. J. (2025). *A Tamer or a Liberator: The Eco-Weird and Indigenous Anishinaabe Ontologies*. Society for the Study of the Eco-Weird, Second Symposium. Online. Oct. 25, 2025.

- Kapron, B. J. (2025). “*So Great Was the Rush of Water*”: *Other-than-Human Survivance Against the Trent-Severn Waterway*. American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) 2025 Annual Conference: “Forging Environments: Confluence, Resilience, Intersectionality,” Pittsburgh, PA, USA. Apr. 12, 2025.
- Kapron, B. J. (2025) “*River will come for them*”: *Water’s Agential Resistance to Settler Colonialism*. Northern Environmental History Network Seminar Series: “Fluid Histories,” Online. Jan. 21, 2025.
- Kapron, B. J. (2024). *The Survivance of Water and Rock: Anishinaabe Thought Worlds, Other-than-Human Personhood, and the Trent-Severn Waterway*. 4th World Congress of Environmental History, University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland. Aug. 19-26, 2024.
- Kapron, B. J. (2024). *On the Ontological, Anthropocentric Violence of Canadian Settler Colonialism*. Postcolonial, Decolonial, Post-imperial, De-imperial, REVENANT (Revivals of Empire: Nostalgia, Amnesia, Tribulation), University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia. May 21, 2024.
- Kapron, B. J. (2023). *The Survivance of Water and Rock: Anishinaabe Thought Worlds, Other-than-Human Personhood, and the Trent-Severn Waterway*. 30th Annual River Symposium: A River Through Time, River Institute, Cornwall, ON, Canada. Oct. 26, 2023.
- Kapron, B. J. (2021). “*the wilderness vanish[es] in tragic narratives*”: *The Trent-Severn Waterway and the Survivance of Land*. In *the Wake of Red Power Movements: New Perspectives on Indigenous Intellectual and Narrative Traditions*, University of Warwick, Coventry, UK. May 15, 2021.
- Kapron, B. J. (2020). “[*A*] *vision and vital condition to endure, to outwit evil and dominance, and to deny victimry*”: *Exploring Animal Survivance*. 5th Annual Students for Critical Animal Studies 2020 Conference, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, USA. Mar. 14, 2020.
- Kapron, B. J. (2017). *Settler grounded normativity: Learning settler decolonization through engagement with land*. The Work of Settler Colonialism II Conference: Emergent Solidarities, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada. Apr. 22, 2017.
- Kapron, B. J. (2016). *Cacophonous grounded normativity: Steps toward settler decolonization and transforming relations in a more-than-human world*. Decolonizing Conference: Race, Anti-Racism and Indigeneity: Anti-Colonial Resurgence and Decolonial Resistance, Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Toronto, ON, Canada. Nov. 3, 2016.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES & ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

- The Agency of the Dead in the Lives of Individuals: Experience and Conceptualisation. (2024, Aug. 30-Sept. 1). The Roles of the Agency of the Dead in the Lives of Individuals in Contemporary Society (DEAGENCY) (University of Ljubljana), Ljubljana, Slovenia. (Attendee).
- Manitoulin Island Summer Historical Institute 2017: Does wisdom sit in places? Sites as sources of knowledge. (2017, Aug. 14-18). History of Indigenous Peoples Network, Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies (York University) and Ojibwe Cultural Foundation, M’Chigeeng, ON, Canada. (Participant).
- Pedagogy for the Anthropocene: Re-rooting academic knowledge in nature. (2017, Jul. 25-27). Conscious Mind Co-operative, Transformative Learning Community (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education); Transformative Learning Centre for Community Action (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education), Cobourg, ON, Canada. (Participant).
- Resurgencies: Settler-colonialism and radical indigenous politics, led by Dr. Glen Coulthard. (2016, May 16-27). International Political Economy and Ecology Summer School, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada. (Participant).

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Postdoctoral Fellow

Ongoing, May 2026 – April 2028

Canada Postdoctoral Research Award, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, Canada

- Program of Work: Multispecies Thanatography: Attending to Dead and Dying Non-Human Animals Amidst Mass Extinction
- Supervisor: Dr. Joshua Schuster

Research Assistant

Summer 2024; Winter 2025; Summer 2025

Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER), Winnipeg, MB, Canada

- Provided research support for the Collaborative Leadership Initiative (CLI), a facilitated process for collaborative governance between First Nations and municipalities on water governance and other matters of common concern
- Conducted literature reviews on relevant topics in water governance, reconciliation, and related fields
- Drafted research articles for publication, to disseminate findings of the CLI

Research Assistant

Summer 2024; Winter 2025; Summer 2025

Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER), Winnipeg, MB, Canada

- Provided research support for the Collaborative Leadership Initiative (CLI), a facilitated process for collaborative governance between First Nations and municipalities on water governance and other matters of common concern
- Conducted literature reviews on relevant topics in water governance, reconciliation, and related fields
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Research Assistant

Fall 2014 – Spring 2016

Dr. Liette Gilbert, Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Compiled relevant research materials for academic articles that Dr. Gilbert was writing on the Lac-Mégantic rail disaster; suburban development in Mexico City; and the use of nuisance by-laws to criminalize immigrants in American municipalities
- Assisted in cyclical review of the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change's / Faculty of Environmental Studies' Ph.D. program, collecting quantitative data and compiling statistics related to student success rates, and collecting qualitative data related to students' experiences of the program

Researcher (Field Experience)

Summer 2015

World Wildlife Fund Canada (WWF-Canada), Toronto, ON, Canada

- Researched, wrote a report, and presented to WWF-Canada staff on the role that language has in connecting people with nature, including recommendations for WWF-Canada's work

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sessional Faculty Member

Winter 2026

Animals and Society (ERST / PHIL / SAFS 3302H)

Trent School of the Environment, Trent University, Peterborough, ON, Canada

- Developed syllabus for interdisciplinary course on animal studies
- Lectured and led seminar discussions on critical theories and concepts pertaining to the cultural division between humans and other animals, the use of animals in dominant society, animal rights and liberation, and posthumanist perspectives
- Created, assigned, and graded mid-term exams, students' participation in seminar discussions, reflective journals, and assignments profiling the roles of animals in society

Contract Teaching Faculty

Winter 2026

Natural Resources Management (GESC 290)

Department of Geography, Faculty of Science, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON, Canada

- Developed syllabus for interdisciplinary course on natural resource policy, planning, and management in Canada, and broader human relationships with the environment
- Lectured on critical theories and concepts pertaining to the use and governance of natural resources, as well as case studies considering the extraction of different natural resources in Canada.
- Created, assigned, and graded mid-term exams, and assignments reviewing documentaries, analyzing news articles, and researching natural resource development projects in Canada

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2025

Philosophy of Mind (PHIL / PSYC 2270)

Department of Philosophy, Trent University, Peterborough, ON, Canada

- Graded essays related to concepts and theories of philosophy of mind

Course Director

Winter 2024; Winter 2025

Educating for a Sustainable Future (EDST 3700; EDUC 3700)

Faculty of Education, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Developed syllabus for interdisciplinary Environmental Education course, inspired by Indigenous Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address
- Lectured and facilitated seminars on environmental and sustainability education, addressing both critical environmental thought and philosophy, and resources for teaching environmental and sustainability education at various education levels
- Created, assigned, and graded nature journal assignments, student presentations on teaching environmental and sustainability education at various levels, and student-developed lesson plans related to environmental and sustainability education

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2023

Intro to Philosophy: Knowledge & Reality (PHIL 1000)

Department of Philosophy, Trent University Durham, Oshawa, ON, Canada

- Graded essays and exams related to different philosophical perspectives on epistemology
- Organized and held office hours to provide students with support and feedback for their assignments

Teaching Assistant

Winter 2022; Winter 2023

The Land We're On: Treaties, Art, and Decolonization (ENVS 1100)

Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Organized and led tutorial discussions on Indigenous relationships with Land in Canada, in relation to settler colonialism and decolonization, often through analyses of art and media
- Explained and taught concepts and theories related to Indigenous and settler relations, and Indigenous and settler colonial relationships to and with Land
- Graded student videos, reading reflections and responses, and tutorial participation

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2021; Fall 2022

Introduction to Environmental Science (ENVS 1500)

Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Organized and led tutorial discussions on introductory elements of environmental science, particularly focused on ecology and the scientific method
- Explained and taught concepts and theories related to ecology, evolution, the scientific method, and scientific writing

- Graded student assignments, including scientific reports, written reflections, graphs, and worksheets, and tutorial participation

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2017 – Winter 2021

Earth in Our Hands: Introduction to Environmental Studies (ENVS 1000)

Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Organized and led tutorial discussions on critical understandings of the environment, the history of environmental thought, and various topics within the field of environmental studies
- Explained and taught concepts and theories related to environmental thought and environmental studies
- Graded students' tests, essays, examinations, projects, reading responses, and tutorial participation

Teaching Assistant

Winter 2017

Resource Management (ENVS 3440)

Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Organized and led tutorial discussions on critical analyses of natural resource management, sustainability, and development
- Explained and taught concepts and theories related to natural resource management, sustainability, and development
- Graded students' tutorial presentations, mid-term and final examinations, case study analyses, and tutorial participation

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2016

Introduction to Geographic Information Systems in Environmental Studies (ENVS 3520)

Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Taught, supported, and graded students' work using ArcGIS software, with assignments focusing on map design, map projections, data query, GPS, digitizing techniques, geocoding, and map analysis

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship Fall 2019 – Summer 2021
- 407 ETR Graduate Student Award, 407 ETR Concession Company Ltd., York University Fall 2018 – Summer 2019
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship Fall 2018
- York Graduate Scholarship, York University Fall 2016
- Han Shan Sih Buddhist Society Financial Bursary, York University Fall 2014
- Dean's Merit Scholarship, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa Fall 2008

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Managing Editor

Summer 2016 – Summer 2022

Editorial Assistant

Fall 2015 – Summer 2016

UnderCurrents: Journal of Critical Environmental Studies, Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Coordinated day-to-day operation of academic journal: scheduling and chairing meetings, corresponding with contributors and editorial collective members, keeping track of finances, planning for future activities of journal, etc.
- Edited articles and book reviews in preparation for publication
- Completed layout and design of volume, using *Adobe InDesign*

- Promoted and distributed journal, including coordinating newsstands and organizing launch party for completed volumes
- Drafted and promoted Call for Papers for forthcoming volumes

UNIVERSITY SERVICE & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Union Steward Fall 2017 – Summer 2018; Fall 2019 – Summer 2021
Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3903, Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Assisted graduate students in Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies working as Teaching Assistants, Course Directors, and Graduate Assistants with matters related to employment
- Communicated employment and union matters; organized CUPE 3903 members for events and activities; provided support to CUPE 3903 members regarding Collective Agreement
- Liaison between graduate students, Faculty Members, and Administration in Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies and CUPE 3903 Executive Committee and Staff

Ph.D. Student Representative Fall 2018 – Summer 2020
Faculty Council, Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Represented Ph.D. students and candidates at Faculty Council, the highest level of internal governance within the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies, responsible for establishing policy and regulations in all Faculty matters
- Voiced Ph.D. student positions, views, opinions, and concerns at Faculty Council; voted on Faculty matters according to student positions
- Liaison between Ph.D. students, Faculty Members, and Administration in Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies; informed students of matters arising in Council; liaised with students to gather positions and concerns to bring to Council

Co-Chair Summer 2017 – Summer 2018
Ph.D. Environmental Studies Students' Association (PhESSA), Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Liaison between Ph.D. students, Faculty Members, Staff, and Administration in Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies
- Organized meetings, information sessions, networking events, and social events pertinent to Ph.D. experience and Ph.D. students' needs
- Oversaw Ph.D. student involvement in governance bodies within the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies and York University more broadly
- Managed finances for PhESSA's research fund and for events

Organizer Fall 2016 – Winter 2017
Faculty and PhD Research Symposium and Celebration, Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada. Mar. 20, 2017

- Organized and hosted symposium to celebrate PhD and Faculty research in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change / Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University
- Solicited presentations and participants
- Arranged and booked space, technical equipment, food, etc.

Editor Fall 2012 – Winter 2013; Summer 2016
Action Speaks Louder newsletter, OPIRG-Toronto, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Solicited, selected, and edited articles for the *Action Speaks Louder* newsletter
- Assisted with layout of newsletter

Director Fall 2012 – Spring 2013
Action Group Organizer Fall 2010 – Spring 2013
Ontario Public Interest Research Group-Toronto (OPIRG-Toronto), University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

- Directed OPIRG in its work to promote social and environmental justice initiatives
- Assisted in the day-to-day operation of the OPIRG office
- Planned, promoted, and hosted events and conferences
- Planned and facilitated internal and external meetings
- Allocated funding to community events and organizations
- Liaised with university administration

Director Winter 2010 – Summer 2010
Ontario Public Interest Research Group-Peterborough, Trent University, Peterborough, ON, Canada

- Directed OPIRG in its work to promote social and environmental justice initiatives
- Assisted in the day-to-day operation of the OPIRG office, Food Cupboard, and Free Market
- Planned, promoted, and hosted events and conferences
- Planned and facilitated internal and external meetings
- Collected and Organized Data

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Learn to Camp Coordinator Summer 2014
Ontario Parks, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Selkirk Provincial Park, Selkirk, ON, Canada

- Operated the Learn to Camp program at Selkirk Provincial Park, teaching participants skills needed to camp safely and effectively, including how to properly use and maintain equipment
- Worked on maintenance, upkeep, and landscaping of campsites and the park

Operations Assistant Fall 2013
Pilpintuwasi Animal Rescue Center and Butterfly Farm, Padre Cocha, Peru

- Assisted in the operation of an animal rescue center: acquired and prepared food for animals; fed primates and birds; interacted with visitors in English and Spanish, including selling admissions and souvenirs; provided English-language tours; assisted with manual labour and maintenance

GIS Assistant Summer 2012; Summer 2013
Office of the Surveyor General, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Peterborough, ON, Canada

- Entered, updated, reviewed, and verified Government of Ontario GIS database information for lakes, rivers, and bays throughout Ontario
- Researched and prepared documentation of geographic names for review by the Ontario Geographic Names Board, including preparation of maps using GIS software

GIS Assistant Summer 2010
GIS Centre of Excellence, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Peterborough, ON, Canada

- Developed inventories of GIS applications
- Organized venues and accommodations for a GIS conference
- Reviewed websites for amalgamation

Assistant Clerk Summer 2009; Summer 2010
Youth Programs, Human Resources Branch, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Peterborough, ON, Canada

- Conducted inventory of Youth Programs goods and equipment
- Shipped goods and equipment for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Youth Programs
- Created slideshows, videos, and newsletters promoting the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Youth Programs