

My work is on the cultural aspect of forced migration secondary to Sea Level Rise. I focus on Native/Indigenous traditional knowledge as a foundation to integrating solutions in dealing with migration and forced relocation and the cultural ramifications that come along with living in the diaspora. As Native people connected to land through genealogy and cosmology, we live in a cyclical relationship that understands the connections between man and environment. Therefore, the need to rely on our traditional knowledge is crucial now as a tool and pathway for developing and incorporating methods in learning how to develop efficient managements systems. My own question is how do we manage to cognitively and effectively shift gears to not only meet the demands of migration but to rely on our own traditional knowledge to understand what is happening with the world.

My Master's thesis developed tools in navigating different pathways in assessing the ecosystem approach to solutions based on traditional knowledge for large scale migration as well as ecosystem disruptions. I wrote about Tokelau, Tuvalu, and Kiribati and developed an educational platform that not only educates the children on the dynamics in Climate Change but also how to be confident in relying on the traditional knowledge that is gifted to us through our ancestors in dealing with the dynamics of Climate Change. These tools are used on the U.S. Indigenous Climate Change Task Force and I presented on these practices as a speaker at COP21 in Paris France 2015 as I focused on incorporating Native knowledge and traditions as a way to answer the demands of Climate Change.

These practices and tools of Native knowledge cannot be practiced on the global level if there is no support from agencies, organizations, and countries. Therefore, a collaboration of sorts has to be central to hearing and understanding the Native lens as a viable option to dealing with certain practices, and an open understanding of different worlds needs to be recognized for better solutions and practices in dealing with the many dynamics of Climate Change.