

weather movements

14-15 November 2024
a one-and-a-half day workshop
RMIT University, Melbourne City campus

Weather is a hot topic. Unlike rising oceans or biodiversity loss, which for many people remain things happening somewhere else, weather is something we are living with everywhere, everyday, all the time, in ways that range from dramatic to mundane. From sunshine and blue skies, to thunder storms and winds, to heatwaves, floods, fog, snow, and rain, there is no way to avoid the weather; we feel it in our bodies. We build our houses to withstand it, our clothing to protect us from it, we record it in lists, graphs and diaries, we write stories, poems and music to celebrate it, and, increasingly, we are urgently adapting our ways of living in order to cope with the rapid effects of climate change.

We want to talk about how we live with weather, how we move with weather, and how weather moves us. From human communities trying to adapt to increasing severe and unprecedented events, to the critters we live alongside with-animate and inanimate—we want to talk about how weather movements affect our everyday lives. In this informal, multidisciplinary symposium event, we invite contributions from

across humanities and social science fields such as cultural studies, cultural geography, environmental humanities, mobilities, history, literary studies, creative arts, health and medical humanities, sport studies, and more.

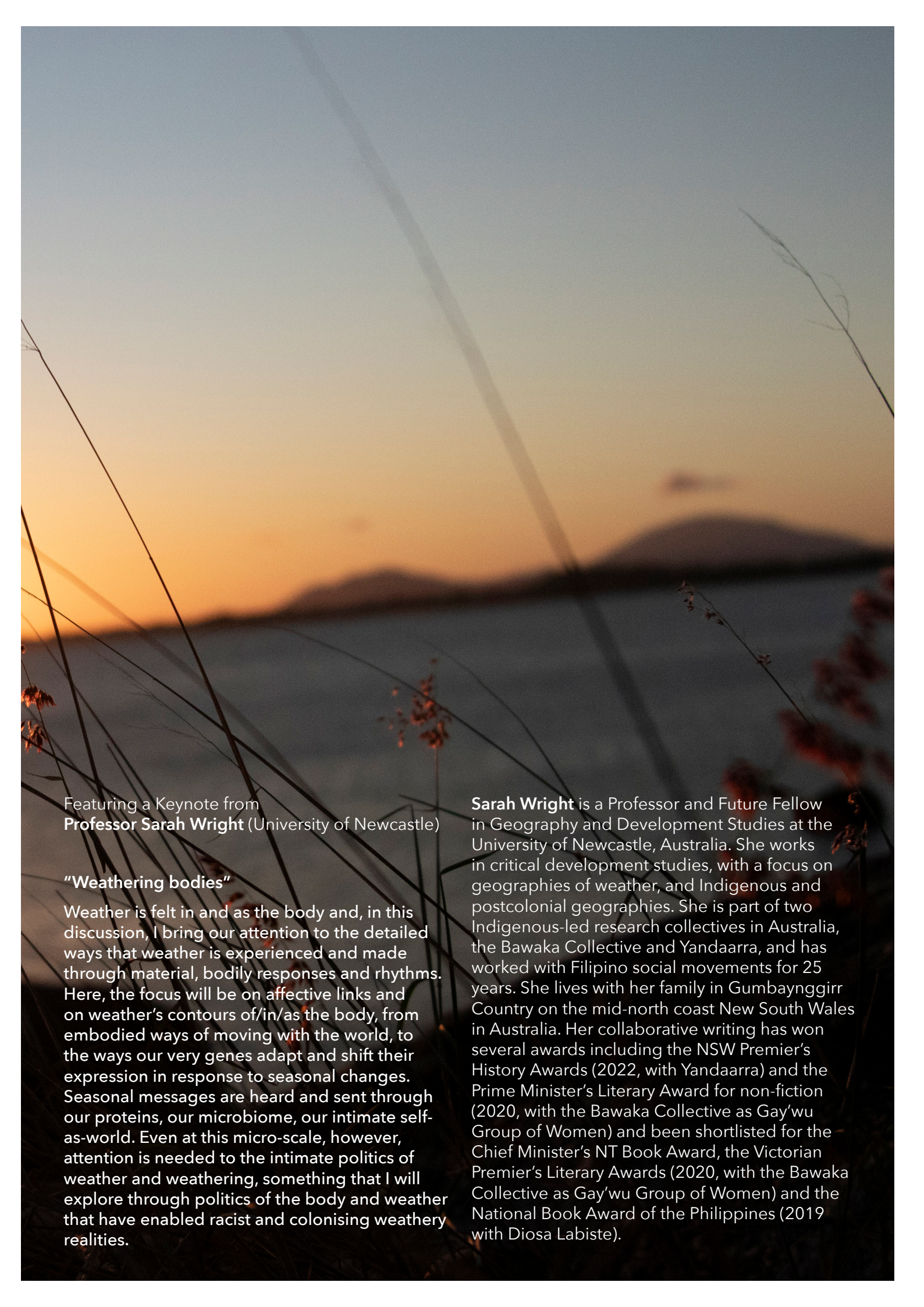
If you are interested in joining us, please email us a proposed presentation title and abstract (max 250 words) and a short bio (100 words). Rather than encouraging finished works, the first day will run as a symposium format to share work in progress, new ideas, or provocations about how weather shapes our lives in motion. The second day will include a field trip and discussion around a selection of readings.

This is a free in-person event, with limited places. Hosted by the Centre for Urban Research, RMIT and Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research, Griffith University.

CFP closes: 11 August

Notification of outcomes: 31 August

Email: Rebecca Olive rebecca.olive@rmit.edu.au
and Kaya Barry k.barry@griffith.edu.au

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, there are dark, thin reeds or grasses. The water is dark and reflects the light from the sky. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Featuring a Keynote from
Professor Sarah Wright (University of Newcastle)

“Weathering bodies”

Weather is felt in and as the body and, in this discussion, I bring our attention to the detailed ways that weather is experienced and made through material, bodily responses and rhythms. Here, the focus will be on affective links and on weather’s contours of/in/as the body, from embodied ways of moving with the world, to the ways our very genes adapt and shift their expression in response to seasonal changes. Seasonal messages are heard and sent through our proteins, our microbiome, our intimate self-as-world. Even at this micro-scale, however, attention is needed to the intimate politics of weather and weathering, something that I will explore through politics of the body and weather that have enabled racist and colonising weathery realities.

Sarah Wright is a Professor and Future Fellow in Geography and Development Studies at the University of Newcastle, Australia. She works in critical development studies, with a focus on geographies of weather, and Indigenous and postcolonial geographies. She is part of two Indigenous-led research collectives in Australia, the Bawaka Collective and Yandaarra, and has worked with Filipino social movements for 25 years. She lives with her family in Gumbaynggirr Country on the mid-north coast New South Wales in Australia. Her collaborative writing has won several awards including the NSW Premier’s History Awards (2022, with Yandaarra) and the Prime Minister’s Literary Award for non-fiction (2020, with the Bawaka Collective as Gay’wu Group of Women) and been shortlisted for the Chief Minister’s NT Book Award, the Victorian Premier’s Literary Awards (2020, with the Bawaka Collective as Gay’wu Group of Women) and the National Book Award of the Philippines (2019 with Diosa Labiste).