

WEAVING GRIEF, THE BODY & TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE

Facilitated by *Camille Barton*

Hosted by *The Global Environments Network*

17-22 JUNE 2021 AT THE QUADRANGLE



In June 2021 the Global Environments Network (GEN) will host a [residential retreat](#), exploring how embodied grief practices can support environmental advocacy and transformative justice in the UK context. The retreat will prioritise people with recent ancestral histories of migration or colonisation and will be an opportunity to put into practice the Weaving Grief, the Body and Transformative Justice Toolkit research led by [Camille Barton](#), in collaboration with GEN Director, [Nessie Reid](#). The retreat will take place at [The Quadrangle](#) in Kent, UK.

The grief tools explored are predominantly inspired by the work of Malidoma and Sobonfu Some, Francis Wellner and Martin Prechtel. These authors have rich experience using ritual as a way to befriend grief. Art therapy interventions will also be woven in, to creatively unearth how grief work can be explored in individual as well as collective contexts. Embodied self-regulation practices will be used daily by participants, based on a variety of somatic practices. Dance therapy, free writing or journaling, drawing, painting and peer counselling practices will be used to integrate experiences.

Why should you attend the retreat?

COVID-19 has made it abundantly clear that we collectively have a lot to grieve, whether it is the loss of loved ones, ways of living, state violence, inequality or the destruction of the environment by extractive industries. Due to processes of colonisation and assimilation, many of us have lost our traditional ways of grieving, and therefore struggle to do this work, let alone reap the benefits it can bring into our lives. In making grief practices accessible and emergent, we hope that movement work will become increasingly holistic and trust based, with a systemic, decolonial approach that can support us to build strong coalitions that sustain environmental regeneration work, led by people of the global majority.

In times of crisis, we see that it is people of colour (POC) who feel the biggest impact of structural and systemic inequality. During the corona pandemic in the UK, POC have been overrepresented at [19% of the death toll despite being only 14% of the UK population](#). In the context of climate emergency, eco-fascist narratives have become more popular in recent years, which tend to focus on population control and a 'humans are the virus' rhetoric. This ignores the historical legacy of many indigenous and global majority communities that exist harmoniously with the natural world. As a result, it is clear that the voices of POC need to be included, valued and celebrated in environmental work moving forward.



At the Global Environments Summer Academy 2018, Camille facilitated a day on Race, Gender and the Environment, introducing participants to strategies for applying intersectionality and anti-racist practise within their immediate and (in)direct communities. (Photo: J.Tekguc)

Fees

At GEN, we operate a [sliding fee scale](#). Retreat fees cover accommodation, meals and all teaching and teaching materials. Participants will need to cover their travel expenses to and from the retreat venue. Full fee: £1,500. Participants with less access to wealth may apply for bursaries, which will be prioritised for refugees and those who have recent personal or ancestral histories of migration or colonial displacement.

A note on COVID-19: residential retreat, or online

COVID-19 is changing the ability for us to be able to safely gather in groups for events. We are monitoring the situation closely and will be making a decision by early February as to whether it is safe to move ahead with the event in person or if we will be shifting it to take place online. This event is planning to go ahead in person but if it does take place online, the price will be reduced to reflect this.

Additional information

Global Environments Network website: [event page](#) and [application form](#)

Global Environments Network Facebook: [page](#) and [event page](#)

Announcements on the retreat and toolkit: [sign up for GEN newsletters](#)

For enquiries, write to Corinne Cariad / Marina Aman Sham: toolkits@globalenvironments.org

"Weaving Grief, the Body and Transformative Justice Retreat"

Date: 17-22 June 2021

Venue: The Quadrangle, Kent, UK

Deadline for Applications: 6th January 2021

"When we experience losses in life, when things change, there is a need to grieve. But culturally we don't have those tools and techniques anymore in a western context so it just builds up," says Camille, in an interview for [Why surrendering to death, grief and loss is fundamental to reimagining how to live](#).