

Call for Papers - *Journal of Contemporary Water Research and Education*

Special Issue Theme: *Cultural Keystone Resources as a Nexus for Water Research Co-Production Opportunities*

Abstract: In recent years, the intersection of cultural and ecological knowledge has gained prominence in the field of water research, particularly in the context of Indigenous and descendant communities. Cultural Keystone Resources (CKRs), representing a complex web of culturally significant elements within ecosystems, have emerged as a focal point for understanding the intricate relationships between culture, environment, and water. CKRs are fundamental to the cultural and spiritual identity of Indigenous and descendant communities worldwide. They encompass a wide range of elements, including sacred sites, traditional ecological knowledge, rituals, and cultural practices deeply intertwined with local ecosystems and water sources. The protection, restoration, and sustainable management of these resources are central to the preservation of cultural heritage and the ecological well-being of these communities.

This call for papers invites scholars and researchers to explore the multifaceted role of CKRs as a nexus for co-production opportunities in water research with Indigenous and descendant communities. This approach aims to foster a rich dialogue on the critical nexus between Cultural Keystone Resources and water research co-production, providing a platform for the exchange of ideas, experiences, and strategies. We invite contributions from scholars, practitioners, Indigenous knowledge holders, and community members to advance our understanding of how CKRs can shape the future of water research and sustainable management in Indigenous and descendant communities. Together, we can illuminate pathways towards a more holistic, inclusive, and culturally sensitive approach to water resource education and conservation. We are especially interested and seek the following topic contributions:

- **Interdisciplinary Approaches:** We encourage papers that adopt interdisciplinary perspectives, bridging cultural studies, environmental science, anthropology, hydrology, and Indigenous knowledge systems. Explore how CKRs can serve as a platform for collaborative research that respects and integrates traditional and scientific knowledge systems.
- **Community Engagement and Empowerment:** Investigate how research co-production involving CKRs can empower Indigenous and descendant communities in water resource management and research. Highlight examples of community-driven initiatives that leverage CKRs to address water-related challenges and promote cultural resilience and education opportunities.
- **Policy and Governance:** Examine the policy and governance frameworks that either support or hinder the recognition and protection of CKRs in water management and research strategies. Evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies and propose innovative approaches to enhance CKR preservation and sustainable water resource management and research initiatives.
- **Environmental Justice and Equity:** Analyze the role of CKRs in addressing issues of environmental justice and equity, particularly in the context of water access and resource allocation. Explore how CKRs can contribute to more equitable and inclusive water governance.
- **Case Studies and Best Practices:** Share case studies, best practices, and success stories that showcase how CKRs have been integrated into water research and management projects. Highlight the lessons learned and potential pathways for future research and collaboration.

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Submission Deadline: October 15, 2024

Target Publication Date: April 2025

Author Guidelines: Manuscripts may be submitted any time before the deadline. Email manuscripts to mpfedoroff@ua.edu. Manuscript submissions must follow JCWRE author guidelines. Visit [UCOWR's website](#) for more info. All manuscripts for Special Issues will undergo the same peer review process as all JCWRE Issues.

General Questions about JCWRE? Contact Karl Williard (williard@siu.edu) or Jackie Gillespie (crimjac@siu.edu)