

Wasiq Silan
Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS)
Helsinki Inequality Initiative (INEQ)
CEREN (The Centre for Research on Ethnic Relations and Nationalism)



Curriculum vitae

Hi! I am Wasiq Silan (I-An Gao 高怡安). I am a Core Fellow at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. I am a Tayal woman from the Mstaranan known as the Nanshi River valley in the northern part of Taiwan. Previously, I was a postdoctoral researcher of the SamiCare project, Coming of age in Indigenous communities: Ageing, quality of life and home-based elderly care in Sápmi and Atayal region (2019-2022), funded by the Norwegian Research Center. My ongoing research is part of the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) 2020 Transformation stream, a \$24 million Canadian dollar biodiversity and Indigenous health project, which is Árramát: Strengthening Health and Well-Being through Indigenous-Led Conservation and Sustainable Relationships with Biodiversity. My research concerns indigenizing social services and developing sustainable health systems, and I am committed to developing Indigenous methodologies, namely, bringing the Indigenous local ways of producing knowledge as research methodologies.

I am currently affiliated with the Centre for Research on Ethnic Relations and Nationalism (CEREN) at the University of Helsinki and Indigenous Voices (IVO) research group at The Arctic University of Norway.

During my BA, I visited Peking University as a student representative from political science department at the National Taiwan University. During my MA, I worked as an intern at the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law at the Arctic Center in Rovaniemi and as a collaborative researcher at National Chengchi University (NCCU) in Taipei. For four years, I have been actively participating United Nations Permanent Forum on the Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) as NGO delegate from Taiwan Indigenous Peoples. I was awarded SUPRA scholarship from Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) June-July 2017. I worked as a salaried position doctoral researcher at the Swedish School of Social Science (2018-2020). My dissertation was funded by the prestigious Finnish Cultural Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in Europe.

I attended World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium 2019 and 5th Indigenous Voices in Social Work conference in Hualien, from which I realized it is time to commit to my identity as an Indigenous scholar. The transition from using my westernized name 'Grace' to my Indigenous and Han Chinese names deepened my research interests concerning indigeneity, knowledge, naming, language and power.

Employment

Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS)

University of Helsinki
Helsingin yliopisto, Finland
16 Nov 2021 → present

Helsinki Inequality Initiative (INEQ)

University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland
1 Jun 2019 → present

CEREN (The Centre for Research on Ethnic Relations and Nationalism)

University of Helsinki
Finland
1 Jan 2017 → present

Research outputs

Älkää vältelkö meitä, välittäkää meistä!

Silan, W. & Lüpke, F., 20 Mar 2024, In: Freedom to Think - HCAS blog.

Is Integrating Possible? Towards Weaving Knowledges to Transform Care

Silan, W., 2024, In: Taiwan Insight.

Pinhkngyan: Paths Taken to Develop Indigenous Research Methodologies. The Case of the Tayal People, Taiwan
Silan, W., 2024, In: Sage Research Methods Cases.

Mapping Care: Insights from the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies Retreat
Graan, A., Kurth, C., O'Brien, L., Silan, W. & Öhman, N., 14 Dec 2023, In: Freedom to Think - HCAS blog.

Cisan and Malahang: Indigenous Older Adults' Voices on Active Aging – Findings from a Qualitative Study in Taiwan
Silan, W. & Munkejord, M. C., Dec 2023, In: Canadian Journal on Aging. 42, 4, p. 599-606 8 p., PII S0714980823000363.

"We Tried to Take Care of Her, but it Got Too Exhausting": A Study of the Transition From Family Carer to Employer
Ness, T. M. & Silan, W., 16 Oct 2023, In: Global qualitative nursing research. 10, 14 p., 23333936231202876.

When Indigenous Peoples Meet the State: Reflecting Indigenous Identities through the Politics of Name in Taiwan
Hong, C-C. & Silan, W., Aug 2023, *Assessing the Development of Taiwanese Identity*. Jing, B. & Lodén, T. (eds.). Stockholm-Nacka: Institute for Security & Development Policy, p. 34-41 8 p.

從聯合國參與和北歐綠色殖民反思臺灣原住民權利
Silan, W., 5 Jul 2023, In: Streetcorner Sociology.

Is Going Green Hurting Indigenous Communities? Reflection From Participating In The United Nations Permanent Forum On Indigenous Issues
Silan, W., 19 Jun 2023, In: Taiwan Insight.

Pinhkngyan: paths taken to recognizing, doing and developing Indigenous methodologies
Silan, W. & Munkejord, M. C., Jun 2023, In: AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples. 19, 2, p. 407-416 10 p.

Hmali', rrggyax and Gaga: a study of Tayal elders reclaiming their Indigenous identities in Taiwan
Silan, W. & Munkejord, M. C., 2 Sept 2022, In: AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples. 18, 3, p. 354-363 10 p.

Why do we have Poor health? How Colonialism Continues to Marginalise Indigenous Peoples
Silan, W., 10 May 2022, In: Taiwan Insight.

Decolonization of care through a wholistic way of living: Gaga from the Tayal in Taiwan
Silan, W., Chen, C-C. & Lai, T-Y., 21 Apr 2022, In: Facets. 7, p. 591–610 20 p.

We are All Interdependent: A Study of Relationships Between Migrant Live-In Carers and Employers in Taiwan
Munkejord, M. C., Ness, T. M. & Gao, I-A., 31 Oct 2021, In: Global qualitative nursing research. 8, p. 1-11 11 p., 23333936211043504.

Colonialism continues to marginalize Indigenous peoples
Gao, I-A., 25 Oct 2021, In: Liikkeessä yli rajojen -blogi. 2 p.

Book Review: Shu-mei Shih and Lin-chin Tsai (Eds.), Indigenous Knowledge in Taiwan and Beyond
Gao, I-A., Sept 2021, In: AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples. 17, 3, p. 444-445 2 p.

Social Policies for Older Indigenous People in Taiwan
Gao, I-A., Sept 2021, In: Gerontologia. 35, 3, p. 310-313 4 p.

"This Life is Normal for Me": A Study of Everyday Life Experiences and Coping Strategies of Live-in Carers in Taiwan
Munkejord, M. C., Ness, T. M. & Gao, I-A., 4 Jul 2021, In: Journal of Gerontological Social Work. 64, 5, p. 533-546 14 p.

Navigating the Finnish System as an International PhD Candidate

Silan, W., 7 Jun 2021, In: Acatiimi : Professoriliiton, Tieteentekijöiden liiton ja Yliopistonlehtorien liiton lehti. 24, 3, p. 36-39 4 p.

Collective experiences of the Indigenous writing retreat

Kontinen, H., Jang, H. S. & Silan, W., Jan 2021, In: Dutkansearvvi dieđalaš áigečála. 4, 1, p. 66-79 14 p.

Coming of Age in Indigenous Societies

Munkejord, M. C., Hætta, S., Eira, J. B., Giæver, A., Henriksen, J-E., Mehus, G., Ness, T. M. & Silan, W., 2021, Vadsø: Susannefoto Forlag. 75 p.

Social Policies and Indigenous Peoples in Taiwan: Elderly Care Among the Tayal

Gao, I-A., 2021, Helsinki: Unigrafia. 302 p.

Sustainability science is more about listening than re-inventing the wheel – Indigenous voices for sustainability

Fabritius, N. & Gao, I-A., 28 Apr 2020, Voices of Sustainability

Outcasts of Empire: Japan's Rule on Taiwan's 'Savage Border' 1874–1945, written by Paul D. Barclay, (2018)

Gao, I-A., Sept 2019, In: International Journal of Taiwan Studies. 2, 2, p. 377-380 4 p.

Helander-Renvall, Elina. Sámi Society Matters. Rovaniemi: Lapland University Press, 2016 [Book review]

Gao, I-A., Feb 2019, In: Suomen Antropologi. 43, 2, p. 121-123 3 p.

Efforts and Concerns for Indigenous Language Education in Taiwan

Gao, I-A., Lin, C-F. & Lin, P-I., 2019, *Handbook of Indigenous Education*. McKinley, E. A. & Smith, L. T. (eds.). Singapore: Springer , p. 443-465 23 p.

Insights into Positionality and the Voicing of Indigeneity in Research: Towards a Critical Theory of Inbetweenness

Silan, W. & Mataire, P. J., 2019, In: Dutkansearvvi dieđalaš áigečála. 3, 2, p. 108-124 18 p.

Indonesia's Overseas Labour Migration Programme, 1969-2010

Gao, I-A., Jun 2018, In: Nordic Journal of Migration Research. 8, 2, p. 137-138 2 p.

Worthy Lives and Building Homes

Gao, I-A., 15 May 2018, 8 p. Rasisminvastainen tutkijaverkosto.

Indigenous Peoples' Self-determination and Long-term Care: Sápmi and Nunavut

Gao, I-A., 2018, In: Social Work and Policy Studies: Social Justice, Practice and Theory. 1, 1, p. 1-40 40 p.

How Does Culture Relate to Health? A Case Study on Indigenous Peoples in Taiwan

Gao, I-A., 2017, *Heritage and Rights of Indigenous Peoples: patrimonio y Derechos de Los Pueblos Indígenas*. Castillo, M. M. & Strecker, A. (eds.). Leiden: Leiden University Press, p. 255-269 15 p. (Archaeological Studies Leiden University).

全國550萬人口，就有330萬個「桑拿」：令芬蘭人驕傲的傳統文化

Gao, I-A. & Chen, Y-H., 2017, 3 p. Taiwan : Commonwealth Magazine- Crossing.

芬蘭建國百年: 看薩米原住民族權利

Gao, I-A., 2017, In: 水鹿遇到馴鹿 . 1 p.

Attending the 2016 UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Kalay, L., Silan, W. & Kabala'an, N., 12 Oct 2016, In: ACUNS Newsletter. 3, p. 7-8 2 p.

第15屆聯合國原住民族議題論壇參與: 談原住民族之國際參與、權利與實踐

Kalay, L., Silan, W., Kabala'an, N. & Kalay, U., 2016, In: ACUNS Newsletter. p. 8- 10 p.

原住民族聯合國參與: 先自覺才能自決

Silan, W., 2013, In: Lipao 立報. 7 p.

參加2013年第12屆常設論壇的省思

Silan, W., 2013, In: Indigenous Communication and Culture Research Center. 2 p.

討論健康、文化、教育、人權中體現自決

Silan, W., 2013, In: Indigenous Communication and Culture Research Center. 2 p.

2012聯合國原住民族常設論壇: 一個泰雅族女青年觀點 (上)

Silan, W., Jul 2012, In: Indigenous Communication and Culture Research Center. 1 p.

Activities

Indigenous Community Conservation with Prof. Richard Howitt

Wasiq Silan (Attendee)

11 Apr 2024

Commentary on Comparative Indigenous Knowledges between Taiwan and New Caledonia

Wasiq Silan (Speaker)

29 Mar 2024

In their own words: Speakers of endangered languages show us the importance of a diverse language policy, pluralistic language education and the place of language in the sustainability agenda [In hun woorden: Sprekers van bedreigde talen tonen ons het belang van een divers taalbeleid, pluriforme taaleducatie en de plaats van taal in de duurzaamheidsagenda]

Stef Spronck (Speaker), Héloïse Calame (Speaker), Luna Erica (Speaker), Anu Pauliina Hyvönen (Speaker), Kayleigh Jean Karinen (Speaker), Victoria Peemot (Speaker), Wasiq Silan (Speaker) & Pirjo Kristiina Virtanen (Speaker)

25 Jan 2024

The 22nd session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Wasiq Silan (Attendee)

17 Apr 2023 → 21 Apr 2023

Providing Meaningful Care for Indigenous Elders becoming Moral Stress?

Wasiq Silan (Speaker)

13 Apr 2023

Providing meaningful care for Indigenous elders becomes moral stress? Experience of resistance to colonization in aging in place from Taiwan

Wasiq Silan (Speaker)

23 Mar 2023

Pinhkngyan: Paths taken to recognising, doing and developing Indigenous methodologies

Wasiq Silan (Speaker)

1 Dec 2022

Hmali', Rgyax and Gaga. How Bnkis (older Tayal women and men) reclaim their Indigenous identities

Wasiq Silan (Speaker)

9 Jun 2022

Nordic Congress of Gerontology

Wasiq Silan (Attendee)

8 Jun 2022 → 10 Jun 2022

Aging and Care in Indigenous Communities: Decolonial methodologies

Wasiq Silan (Speaker)

5 May 2022

Indigenous peoples and well-being: On the importance of decolonizing perspective

Wasiq Silan (Speaker)

3 May 2022

Cisan and Malahang: Indigenous Elders' Voices on Active Aging: Findings from a Qualitative Study in Taiwan

Wasiq Silan (Speaker)

21 Apr 2022

Participating the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Wasiq Silan (Speaker)

17 Apr 2022

Canadian Journal on Aging (Journal)

Wasiq Silan (Reviewer)

15 Apr 2022 → 15 May 2022

Being an Indigenous woman in the context of multiple crises: Three lessons from the Tayal

Wasiq Silan (Speaker) & Yapit Tali (Speaker)

25 Mar 2022

Indigenous peoples, well-being and Taiwan: on the importance of decolonizing perspective & Coming of Age in Indigenous Societies Photobook Presentation

Wasiq Silan (Speaker)

1 Dec 2021

Indigenous peoples, well-being and Taiwan: On the importance of decolonizing perspective

Wasiq Silan (Speaker)

22 Nov 2021

Care in Indigenous Community in Taiwan- 'We Are All Interdependent' A Study of Relationships between Migrant Live-in Carers and Employers in Taiwan

Wasiq Silan (Speaker)

16 Nov 2021

'We Are All Interdependent.' A Study of Relationships between Migrant Live-in Carers and Employers in Taiwan

Wasiq Silan (Speaker)

12 Nov 2021

Indigenous peoples and well-being: On the importance of decolonizing perspective

Wasiq Silan (Speaker)

2 Nov 2021

Hmali', Rgyax and Gaga: A Study of Tayal Elders Reclaiming Their Indigenous Identities in Taiwan

Wasiq Silan (Speaker)

26 Oct 2021

Exploring the potential of Institutional Ethnography

Wasiq Silan (Attendee)

1 Jul 2021

The 20th Nordic Migration Research Conference and the 17th Society for the Study of Ethnic Relations and International Migration (ETMU) conference

Wasiq Silan (Speaker: Presenter) & Chung-Chih Hong (Speaker: Presenter)

11 Jan 2021 → 14 Jan 2021

The International Conference on Climate Change, Indigenous Resilience and Local Knowledge Systems: Cross-time and Cross-boundary Perspectives

I-An Wasiq Gao (Attendee)

13 Dec 2019 → 14 Dec 2019

Organizing, chairing and presenting in a seminar on "Recent Development in Hong Kong"

I-An Wasiq Gao (Attendee)

16 Sept 2019

The judicial implementation of the ICESCR in Taiwan

I-An Wasiq Gao (Attendee)

13 Sept 2019

HELSUS roundtable discussion: Indigenous sustainabilities II

I-An Wasiq Gao (Attendee)

10 Sept 2019

Taiwan's Plains Indigenous Peoples Status Recognition movement

I-An Wasiq Gao (Attendee)

9 Sept 2019

Re-searching Care Policies for the Indigenous Elders

I-An Wasiq Gao (Speaker)

7 Aug 2019

The World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium

I-An Wasiq Gao (Attendee)

29 Jul 2019 → 2 Aug 2019

From Multiple-factor classification to Ecological care: Walking across boundaries

I-An Grace Gao (Speaker)

20 May 2019

Ageing men and their social relationships

I-An Grace Gao (Attendee)

26 Mar 2019 → 27 Mar 2019

International Conference on Revitalization of the Hakka Language and Minority Language

Grace I-An Gao (Attendee)

15 Dec 2018 → 17 Dec 2018

CEREN 20 years seminar

Suvi Keskinen (Chair of organizing committee), Gwenaëlle Bauvois (Member of organizing committee), I-An Gao (Member of organizing committee), Tobias J Pötzsch (Member of organizing committee), Niko Pyrhönen (Member of organizing committee), Sanna Maria Saksela-Bergholm (Member of organizing committee) & Minna K Seikkula (Member of organizing committee)

3 Dec 2018

Reciprocity and Collaborative in Research: My Homecoming as a Powerful Ceremony

Grace I-An Gao (Speaker)

20 Nov 2018

Coming of Age in Taiwan: An Indigenous Perspective

Grace I-An Gao (Speaker)

15 Nov 2018

Care as a Barometer of Self-Determination: A Case From Culturally-Healthy Day Club

Grace I-An Gao (Keynote speaker)

13 Oct 2018

2018 Spotlight Taiwan in Estonia

Grace I-An Gao (Attendee)

12 Oct 2018 → 13 Oct 2018

Research as Ceremony: My reconnecting journey home to my Ancestors

Grace I-An Gao (Keynote speaker)

12 Oct 2018

HELSUS Roundtable Discussion on Indigenous Sustainabilities

Grace I-An Gao (Attendee)

12 Sept 2018

UArctic Congress 2018

Grace I-An Gao (Attendee)

6 Sept 2018

How to support indigenous communities' rights on their bio-cultural life-heritages

Grace I-An Gao (Attendee)

3 Sept 2018

Borders and Migration – Global and Local Perspectives

Grace I-An Gao (Attendee)

30 May 2018

The Globalization of the Struggle for the Rights of Mindoro

Grace I-An Gao (Chair)

24 May 2018

The Women of Standing Rock

Grace I-An Gao (Attendee)

23 May 2018

Encounter between the State and the 'Good Life': Culturally-Healthy Center as a Case in Austronesian Taiwan

Grace I-An Gao (Speaker)

14 May 2018

Introduction to the Indigenous Peoples in Taiwan

Grace I-An Gao (Speaker: Presenter)

30 Apr 2018 → 4 May 2018

ESA RN15 Midterm Con-fer-ence at the Uni-versity of Hel-sinki

Grace I-An Gao (Attendee)
19 Apr 2018 → 20 Apr 2018

Asian Ethnicity (Journal)

Grace I-An Gao (Reviewer)
Apr 2018 → ...

CEREN Colloquium The Stopped - Spaces, Meanings and Practices of Ethnic Profiling in Finland

Grace I-An Gao (Attendee)
21 Mar 2018

Indigenous Methodologies and Critical Policy Analysis

Grace I-An Gao (Speaker)
14 Feb 2018

Policy and Practice for Indigenous Peoples Social Welfare Conference

Grace I-An Gao (Attendee)
25 Nov 2017 → 26 Nov 2017

Indigenous Peoples' Rights to Cultural Heritage

Grace I-An Gao (Attendee)
16 Nov 2017 → 17 Nov 2017

Methods and Methodologies

Grace I-An Gao (Speaker)
7 Nov 2017

Indigenous Ways of Knowing

Grace I-An Gao (Speaker)
17 Oct 2017

Suomen saamelaispolitiikka ihmisoikeusnäkökulmasta

Grace I-An Gao (Attendee)
13 Oct 2017

Long-term Care for the Elderly: case of Taiwan

Grace I-An Gao (Speaker)
28 Sept 2017

Suomi100 -seminaari: Saamelaisten historia itsenäisessä Suomessa

Grace I-An Gao (Attendee)
21 Sept 2017

Environmental Justice, Indigenous People & Architecture with Local Material

Grace I-An Gao (Speaker)
11 Sept 2017

9th Annual International ADI Conference

Grace I-An Gao (Attendee)
26 Jun 2017 → 28 Jun 2017

Nordic Institute of Asian Studies

Grace I-An Gao (Visiting researcher)

19 Jun 2017 → 2 Jul 2017

Decolonizing long-term care for the elderly: A case of Taiwan Indigenous peoples

Grace I-An Gao (Speaker)

13 Jun 2017

Unpacking socio-cultural embeddedness of aging indigenous peoples: a case from Tayal people in Taiwan

Grace I-An Gao (Speaker)

2 Mar 2017

Manuscript Assistant for Asian Ethnicity

I An Gao (Participant)

31 Jan 2017 → ...

SPEAK UP! Third HCAS Winter School on Humanities and Social Sciences

I An Gao (Attendee)

24 Jan 2017 → 27 Jan 2017

Australia-Taiwan Symposium

I An Gao (Speaker: Presenter)

1 Dec 2016 → 3 Dec 2016

Fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII15)

I An Gao (New classification)

9 May 2016 → 20 May 2016

2016 Joint Sessions of Workshops

I An Gao (Speaker: Presenter)

24 Apr 2016 → 28 Apr 2016

Human Resources of Long-term Care and Indigenous Peoples' Long-term Care Needs

I An Gao (Speaker: Presenter)

11 Mar 2016

Kuka määrittelee saamelaisuuden -keskustelutilaisuus

I An Gao (Attendee)

17 Dec 2015

The 2nd Annual Conference of the Doctoral Programme in Political, Societal and Regional Change

I An Gao (Speaker: Presenter)

12 Nov 2015 → 13 Nov 2015

12th International Etnu Days conference: Mobile Roots – Rethinking Indigenous and Transnational ties

I An Gao (Speaker: Presenter)

22 Oct 2015 → 23 Oct 2015

5th Forum of People at Grassroots: Understanding the Cultural Diversity in Caring

I An Gao (Attendee)

7 Jun 2015

Taiwan Association of Gerontology 2nd Annual International Conference: Ageing and Social Participation

I An Gao (Attendee)

27 Mar 2015 → 28 Mar 2015

<http://www.nccu.edu.tw/?locale=en>

I An Gao (Visiting researcher)

1 Mar 2015 → 1 Jul 2015

European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Winter School in Methods and Techniques

I An Gao (Attendee)

13 Feb 2015 → 20 Feb 2015

The HCAS Winter School On Humanities and Social Sciences

I An Gao (Speaker: Presenter)

2 Feb 2015 → 6 Feb 2015

Intercultural Competence— Facing Contemporary Global Challenges

I An Gao (Poster Presentation)

Dec 2014

RISC Consortium-University of Helsinki International Conference and Doctoral School

I An Gao (Speaker: Presenter)

29 Oct 2014 → 31 Oct 2014

Indigenous Colloquium: Heritage and Rights of Indigenous Peoples

I An Gao (Speaker: Presenter)

12 Jun 2014 → 14 Jun 2014

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

I An Gao (Speaker: Presenter)

12 May 2014 → 23 May 2014

Arctic Centre

I An Gao (Visiting researcher)

1 Sept 2012 → 1 Nov 2012

Taiwanese in Finland (External organisation)

Grace I-An Gao (Chair)

2012 → ...

Prizes

Chancellor's Travel Grant

Silan, Wasiq (Recipient), 2016

Chancellor's Travel Grant

Silan, Wasiq (Recipient), 13 Apr 2017

Chancellor's Travel Grant

Silan, Wasiq (Recipient), 18 Oct 2017

International Student Grant

Silan, Wasiq (Recipient), 2014