

## Introduction

When we are in the throes of major crises, from the global pandemic to a pending climate apocalypse, thinking about a different tomorrow may feel impossible. Designing alternative futures has become one of the central cultural tasks of the twenty-first century, and Indigenous North American writers, visual artists, curators, comedians, film makers, video game designers, and web developers are at the forefront of this movement. From pre-contact stories to contemporary science fiction, Indigenous cultures abound with visions of the future as sites of “survival” (Gerald Vizenor). While settler colonialist imaginaries of progress have, for the longest time, strategically displaced Native cultures into a fixed, containable past, Indigenous literatures and cultures not only successfully defy these mechanisms of Othering but offer sustainable variants of futurity in powerful networks of transnational exchange.

This symposium brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars from Canada, Europe, and the United States in order to explore representations of a coming world in Indigenous fiction, drama, film, visual arts and digital media, social networks, museums, and performance spaces. We hope to initiate long-standing transnational dialogues on futurity and alternative versions of tomorrow that may serve as exemplary sites of empowering cultural diversity and non-Western systems of knowledge in the interest of economic, ecological, and social sustainability.

## Organization

**Prof. Dr. Birgit Däwes** and  
**Dr. Kristina Sülter**

Europa-Universität Flensburg  
Auf dem Campus 1  
24943 Flensburg

[birgit.daewes@uni-flensburg.de](mailto:birgit.daewes@uni-flensburg.de)

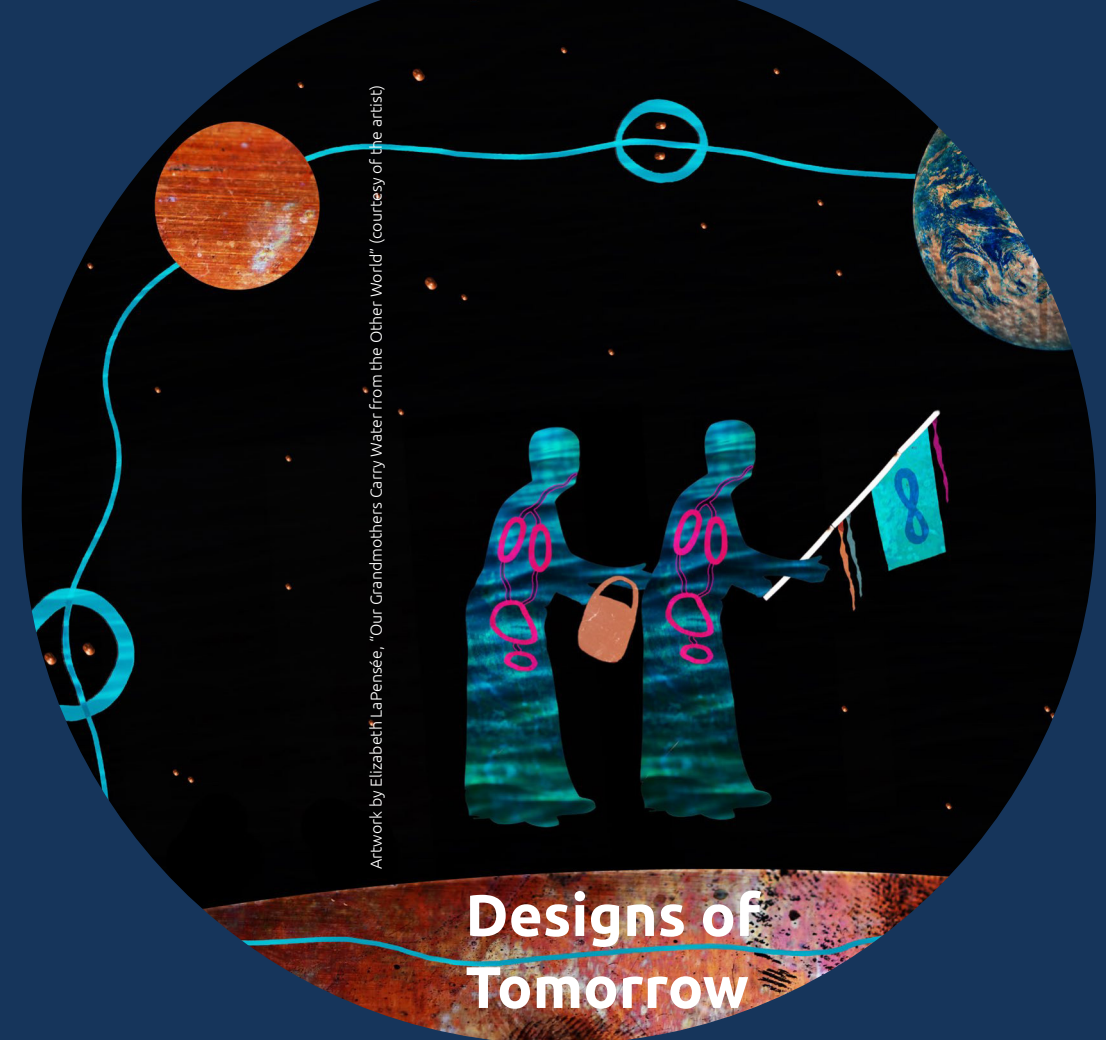
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Artwork by Elizabeth Lapensée, "Our Grandmothers Carry Water from the Other World" (courtesy of the artist)

## Designs of Tomorrow

# Indigenous Futurities in Literature and Culture

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at Europa-Universität Flensburg

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