

Peter Graham, PhD

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I am an interdisciplinary social scientist with ongoing research on the challenge of societal transformation for sustainability. My work begins from an understanding of the negative consequences of the overly reductionist and objectivist worldview typical of much contemporary sustainability research. A systems perspective needs to incorporate a realistic understanding of human mind as mediated, as well as extended and distributed throughout environment. When we introduce a poorly theorized thing into a system, whether overly atomistic theoretical model or instrumentally materialized technology, we risk upsetting the entire system. This perspective also underscores the need to take ethical responsibility for the knowledges we, as scholars, design and set loose on the world.

EDUCATION

2019: Doctor of Philosophy, (Environmental Studies) Queen's University

Thesis title: *Traces of (Un-) Sustainability: Towards a Materially Engaged Ecology of Mind.*

My research builds upon the interdisciplinary framework of Material Engagement Theory, developed within the field of cognitive archaeology, to explore the societal challenge of sustainability and to answer such questions as: What is sustainability? Where does (un-) sustainability come from? Why is sustainability such a wicked problem?

2014: Master of Arts, (Educational Studies), Concordia University

Thesis title: *Meaning, Education, and Sustainability: Building Connectivity Through Dissociation.*

2009: Master of Arts, (Special Interdisciplinary Program, Social Sciences), Concordia University

Thesis title: *On the Illusory Nature of Sustainable Development: A Case Study of a Montreal Suburb.*

2008: Undergraduate Certificate (Adult Education), Concordia University

2005: Graduate Diploma (Community Economic Development), Concordia University

2004: Bachelor of Environmental Studies (Geography), University of Waterloo

1988: Bachelor of Arts (Economics), McGill University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022- 2025: Part-time University Lecturer

Centre for Engineering in Society, Concordia University

ENGR 392 Impact of Technology on Society

2007 - 2025: Part-time University Lecturer

School of Community and Public Affairs, Concordia University

SCPA 201: Introduction to Public Policy

SCPA 215: Economics for Public Policy and Community Development

SCPA 412: Advanced Research Seminar

SCPA 543J: Contemporary Issues in CED (Sustainability)

2011 - 2025: Part-time University Lecturer

Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability, Concordia University

LOYC 230: Globalization & Diversity

LOYC 330: Self, Culture & Development

LOYC 398: Directed Study

LOYC 398-03 Perspectives on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

LOYC 398B: Orientation/International Community Engagement

LOYC 398C: Internship in Sustainability
LOYC 420: Integrative Seminar

2019: Part-time University Lecturer
Department of Geography, Planning & Environment
GEOG 470: Environmental Management

2019 –2020: Part-time University Lecturer
Department of Education, Concordia University
ESTU 611: Educational Problems in Philosophical Perspective
ESTU 635: Studies in Educational Change

2016: Teaching Fellow
School of Environmental Studies, Queen's University
ENSC 390: Sustainability

2012 & 2022: Part-time University Lecturer
McGill School of Environment, McGill University
ENV 400: Environmental Thought

2009 – 2022: Various other teaching and teaching assistant and research assistant contracts in Education, Environmental Studies, Writing courses for Engineers, and School of Community & Public Affairs

PUBLICATIONS

- Graham, P., & Lavalley, S. L. (2024). The case for unsustainability in the university curriculum. *The International Journal of Sustainability in Economic, Social and Cultural Context*, 20(1), 117-135. doi: <https://doi.org/10.18848/2325-1115/CGP/v20i01/117-135>
- Graham, P. & Upitis, R. (in press) Chapter 1: The Matter of Reconciliation. In M. R. Carter, Y.-S. Huang, C. Mitchell, T. Strong-Wilson, D. Ranjan, T. Starlight, A. Weenie & M. Sorensen (Eds.). *Seasons of Change: Interdisciplinary Pedagogies for Reconciliation and Redress*. UBC Press.
- Graham, Peter. (2022). Wickedness Deciphered: Mediated Action and the Democratization of Agency. *The International Journal of Sustainability Policy and Practice* 18 (2): 1-12. doi:10.18848/2325-1166/CGP/v18i02/ 1-12.
- Graham, P., Brown, S., Goebel, A., Hovorka, A., Khan, C., Kuyvenhoven, C., Scheinman, E., Arshad-Ayaz, A., & Upitis, R. (2021). The emotional experience of sustainability courses: Learned eco-anxiety, potential ontological adjustment. *Journal of Education for Sustainable Development* 15(1), 1-15.
- Graham, P. (2020). *Traces of (Un-) Sustainability: Towards a Materially Engaged Ecology of Mind*. New York: Peter Lang.
- Graham, P.; Carter, M.; Upitis, R. & Currie-Williams, K. (2020). Beyond Ontological Autonomy: Finding One's Self in Relations. *Identity Landscapes: Contemplating Place and the Construction of Self*. Brill/Sense.
- Smith, M.; Speiran, S. & Graham, P. (2020) Megaliths, Material Engagement, and the Atmospheric of Neolithic Ethics: Pre-sage for the End(s) of Tourism. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*. 29, (2-3).
- Graham, P. (2019). Material Engagement Theory and Sustainability: The materiality of social change. *The Journal of Strategic Innovation and Sustainability (JSIS)* 14(2), <https://doi.org/10.33423/jsis.v14i3.2107>.
- Graham, P., & Arshad-Ayaz. (2016). Learned Unsustainability: Bandura's Bobo Doll Revisited. *Journal of Education for Sustainable Development*, 10(2), 1-12.
- Graham, P. (2011). On the illusory nature of sustainable development: A case study of a Montreal suburb. Saarbrücken, Germany: VDM Verlag Dr. Müller.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & FUNDING

2019: Queen's University "Dream Course," \$10,000

2017: Senator Frank Carrel Fellowship, \$10,000

2016: Senator Frank Carrel Fellowship, \$10,000

2016: Queen's University Centre for Teaching & Learning research grant

Title of research project: The Experiential Dimension of University Courses on Sustainability, \$1,000

2015: Queen's University, Dean's Award, \$10,000

2014: Concordia University, Early Graduation Bonus, \$5,000

2014: Research assistant,

Researched Montreal University Education programs with respect to sustainability

2012: Research assistant, Balance/Unbalance Conference

Received funding for the Balance/Unbalance Conference team to continue research, workshop/presentation, and publication

2006 – 2007: Research assistant,

Sociology & Interdisciplinary

Worked on a literature review on self and subjectivity

2005: Research assistant, Community Development

Prepared notes for the writing of a book chapter on empowerment

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

2023 – Present: Concordia University

Faculty Interest Group (FiG) on Education for Sustainability

2020 – Present: Concordia University

Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability

Part-time Faculty Hiring Committee Representative (CUPFA)

2024-Present – Curriculum Committee (LOYC)

2016 – 2017: Queen's University, School of Environmental Studies

PhD student representative at Departmental & Graduate Studies meetings

2012 – 2016: Concordia University

School of Community and Public Affairs, Concordia University

Part-time Faculty Hiring Committee Representative (CUPFA)

PRESENTING/FACILITATING EXPERIENCE

2025: CIRANO-CIREQ-RRECQ Environment and Resource Economics Workshops, April 25, 2025.

Workshop theme: "Intended for researchers and doctoral students in economics who are interested in resource and environmental economics."

Presentation title: Learning to See the Rabbit: Eco-anxiety, Sustainability, and Economics

2025: In.Site2 and Sustainability across Disciplines, March 21, 2025

Presentation title: Seeing-as Sustainability: Imagining artfully in the Anthropocene

2025: Concordia University; SCPA Brown Bag Lunch series, February 11, 2025

Presentation title: *Seeing as* Sustainability: Imagining artfully in the Anthropocene

2024: McGill University Sustainability Research Symposium, 14th Edition. February 2, 2024

Symposium theme: *Sustainability in Education*

Presentation title: Education and Sustainability: A troubled history

2023: Nineteenth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic &

Social Sustainability, Feb 1, 2023 – Feb 3, 2023, Conference theme: "Decentering Sustainability:

Towards Local Solutions for Global Problems" at University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia (via zoom). Paper presented: *The matter of reconciliation*

2021: Canadian Sociological Society (CAS-SCS) Annual Conference, Virtual Conference, June 2-4
Presentation title: *Wickedness Deciphered: Mediated Action and the Democratisation of Agency*

2019: Sustainability: Transdisciplinary Theory, Practice, and Action conference, University of Toronto, Mississauga, October 16-18, Conference theme: .

Presentation title: *Material Culture and (Un-)Sustainability: Beneath Representation.*

2019: Sustainability in the City and Beyond Conference, Concordia University, March 19-21.

Presentation title: *Material Engagement Theory and Sustainability*

2019: Fifteenth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability, January 17-19, Conference theme: From Pedagogies for Sustainability to Transformative Social Change, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Paper presented: *Material Engagement Theory & Sustainability: The Materiality of Social Change*

2018: Guest panellist in the course EDEM 690 Research Design,
Department of Integrated Studies in Education, McGill University

2017: Loyola College for Diversity & Sustainability, Lecture Series

Lecture title: *Since When Does Environment Need a Psychiatrist?*

2017: Queen's University, School of Environmental Studies Speaker series,

Doctoral seminar: *Does Material Engagement Theory Have Anything To Offer Sustainability Studies?*

2017: Canadian Geography Association, Ontario Division

Paper presentation: *Material Engagement Theory: A Geography for Ecopsychologists?*

2017: Queen's University, School of Environmental Studies Speaker series,

Exploring the Experiential Dimension of Sustainability Courses

Cassandra Kuyvenhoven and Peter Graham

2016: Indigenous Peoples and the Extractive Industry: Impacts and Alternatives, University of Ottawa

Presentation title: *What is a Resource? A Critique of Western Economic Knowledges*

2014: Panellist, Concordia Graduate Symposium in Education

Topic: Education for Sustainable Development

2012 - 2014: Presenter/Researcher, Balance/Unbalance Workshop at Concordia University

Topic: Research on Education and Sustainability

2012: Presenter, Degrowth in the Americas Conference in Montreal

Workshop title: *Changing the Growth Channel: Maps to Degrowth*

(90-minute workshop in the theme of experiencing degrowth)

2011: Panellist, Ecocity World Summit 2011 in Montréal

Session Title: *Paradigms and Metrics for Ecocity Economics*

Presentation Title: Epistemology: The Necessary Foundation of Ecocity Economics

2011: Guest speaker, John Abbott College

Topic: Values and Consequences: Use Value, Exchange Value, and Constitutive Value

2010: Guest speaker, John Abbott College

Topic: Worldviews and Nature Parks

2010: Workshop facilitator, Padua Centre
Topic: Economics for the Soul

2010: Guest speaker, Roslyn Elementary School
Spoke with students in the enriched program about sustainable development.

2008: Guest speaker, John Abbott College Earth Day Event
Topic: Social Justice and Earth Systems

2007: Concordia University Sustainability Conference “Blueprints for Change”
Subject: Economic Aspects of Sustainable Development
Workshop title: Economic Orthodoxy and Sustainable Development; Peaceful Coexistence or Mutual Exclusion?

2007: Guest speaker, McGill University Green
A panel discussion about sustainable development as the Green Party of Canada Shadow Cabinet critic for Finance and EFR

2007: Guest speaker, John Abbott College
Humanities Department Course: Moral Dilemmas (2 sections)
Topic: Climate Change as a Moral Controversy
2006: Guest speaker, West Island Association of the Visually Impaired
Title: Social Aspects of Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities

2006: Guest lecturer, Concordia University
Course: SCPA 203, Community and Public Affairs in Quebec and Canada
Topic: Green Politics

2004 & 2005: Summer camp educator, Ecomuseum, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue
Designed and implemented a summer program for 12- and 13-year-olds.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2023: Concordia University, Independent student
POLI 628 Ethics and Values in Public Policy Making

2014: Queen’s University, Centre for Teaching Learning Workshops
Are your students engaged?
Positive psychology in the classroom
Recognizing and responding to students in distress
Engaging students in higher order thinking

2014: Teaching development, Concordia University
Teaching morally controversial topics

2013: Teaching development, Concordia University
Appreciative pedagogy

2011: CTLS Training Day
Emotional intelligence
The perils of perfectionism

2010: Concordia University
Ph.D. seminar in University Teaching (10-week course)

2010: Concordia University
Faculty development workshop: Critical thinking
2010: CTLS Training Day
Developing interactive lessons
Mind mapping 5

2009: Concordia University
Moodle website course

2009 Concordia University
Faculty development workshop: Incorporating play into the classroom

2009: Concordia University
Faculty development workshop: Student plagiarism and the role of assessment in preventing it.

CURRENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

Environmental Studies Association of Canada
Common Ground Research Network

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & ACTIVISM

2004 2014: Terra Cotta Conservation Area Project, Pointe Claire
President (Director 2004 - 2007)

2009: Green Party of Canada
Shadow cabinet critic for Democratic Reform
2007 2009: Green Party of Canada
Shadow cabinet critic for Finance and Ecological Fiscal Reform
Critiqued two federal budgets in Ottawa for the GPC
2005 - 2008: Green Coalition Verte (a coalition of local environmental organizations)
Treasurer (re-joined Board of Directors 2018-2019)
2004 - 2008: Ecomuseum, Ste. Anne de Bellevue
Volunteer docent

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE

2005: Concordia University
Organized and moderated a conference on the social and environmental impacts
of various landscapes: Indigenous and non-indigenous perspectives.

LANGUAGES

Native English speaker, functionally fluent in French

CITIZENSHIP

U.S.A. by birth, naturalized Canadian citizen

REFERENCES

Available upon request