

# Jen Gobby

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I am a activist scholar with a focus on climate change, environmental justice, Indigenous rights and resistance, theories & practices of social transformation, and participatory action research methods.

## Education

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- 2014-2019     **Doctor of Philosophy**, Renewable Resources, Department of Natural Resource Sciences, McGill University, research themes: theories of social transformation, climate action, participatory qualitative research methods.
- 2011-2014     **Bachelor of Arts**, Environment (Honours), minor Anthropology, McGill School of Environment, McGill University, specialization: the social science of climate change.

## Research Experience

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- 2019-2021     **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Dept of Geography, Planning and Environment, Concordia University (Montreal, QC). One project involves collaborative analysis on Canadian climate policy and helping develop Indigenous-led climate policy. A second project is working with community groups and organizations across Montreal to support transformative approaches to responding to Covid-19 crisis.
- 2014-2019     **Doctoral Researcher**, Department of Natural Resource Science, McGill University (Montreal, QC). As part of the [Economics for the Anthropocene](#) partnership, I conducted 4 years of participatory research with social movements in Canada, involving 40 in depth interviews and a series of surveys.
- 2019            **Researcher**, [ACKnowl-EJ International Research Project](#) (Barcelona, Spain). Conducted research on environmental conflicts in Canada, contributing to the Canada map on the Global Atlas of Environmental Justice ([EJAtlas](#)). Continuing research collaborations include a research paper that will contribute to the next IPCC report. It is a systematic mapping of the EJAtlas in order to assess the state of knowledge on social movement mobilizations so as to inform on the social acceptance and political feasibility of different trajectories for addressing climate change.
- 2016            **Research Intern**, [United Nations Harmony with Nature Initiative](#) (New York, NY). Conducted research about social marketing and story-based strategy as tools for social transformation, to help promote an Earth-based worldview and to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- 2015-2016 **Research Collaborator**, [The Leap](#) (Toronto, ON). Assisted The Leap team in consulting with the 230 groups and organizations across Canada that signed on to the Leap Manifesto to work towards a Justice-Based Energy Transition. This project included conducting over one hundred interviews. qualitative and quantitative analysis of data and the completion of a summary report.
- 2015 **Research Intern**, [David Suzuki Foundation](#) (Vancouver, BC). Processing and analysis of qualitative data gathered on the DSF Coastal Connections Listening Tour of British Columbia coastal communities. This analysis contributed to a major report to the governments of Canada and to the United Nations advocating for the needs and rights of the residents of coastal BC.
- 2011-2014 **Undergraduate research**. I completed the following original research projects during my undergraduate degree:
- An anthropological study of climate change perceptions and attitudes on Lasqueti Island, BC. This research involved conducting 38 in depth interviews with and 78 completed surveys by residents on this off-the-grid island.
  - A quantitative assessment of Lasqueti Island community's per capita carbon emissions and level of subjective well-being.
  - Honours project - The development of a [Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan with](#) residents of Lasqueti Island, BC. This project employed participatory action research methodology.

## Teaching, Curriculum Design, and Student Supervision

- 2020 **Course Lecturer**, McGill School of Environment, McGill University (Montreal, QC). Teaching ENVR 301 – Research Design
- 2020 **Honour Research Supervisor**, McGill School of Environment, McGill University (Montreal, QC). Supervising the honours research project, providing guidance around participatory action research methods, Indigenous-settler relations, and climate action in Canada. I was asked to supervise this student, as there are no faculty in the MSE with the relevant expertise.
- 2019 **Curriculum and Pedagogy Design Consultant** for International Summer School in Social Transformation (Montreal, QC). Collaborating with [CIRODD](#), [MIS](#), and Concordia's SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation to design a 7-day intensive course with a focus on fostering collective intelligence and team-design to address complex social and environmental challenges in the Montreal urban context.
- 2014-2018 **Teaching Assistant**, McGill School of Environment, McGill University (Montreal, QC). Worked as teaching assistant for 15 undergraduate courses, in collaboration with many different teaching teams. These courses include ENVR 203 – Knowledge, Ethics and Environment, ENVR 400 – Environmental Thought, ENVR 201 – Society, Environment and Sustainability). This work involved grading, assisting in assignment development and

delivering guest lectures on various topics. I also helped design curriculum and pedagogy to incorporate theories of social transformation into ENVR 400.

- 2011-2017 **Guest Lecturer and Curriculum Consultant**, Vanier College (Montreal, QC). Designed and delivered various guest lectures in Humanities, Environmental Ethics, and Critical Thinking courses at Vanier College. Lecture topics included Climate Governance, the Human Dimensions of Climate Change, How Social Change Happens, and the Environmental and Climate Movements in Canada. I was also brought in to help design course content for an Environmental Ethics course about the “good news about climate change” overviewing all the inspiring climate initiative across Canada.
- 2016 **Graduate Course Instructor**, Natural Resource Science Department, McGill University (Montreal, QC). Designed and co-led a graduate seminar called ‘Ethics for the Anthropocene’, on the subject of environmental ethics and climate justice.
- 2004-2011 **Workshop Designer and Facilitator**, MudGirls Natural Building Collective (British Columbia). I co-organized, designed and co-taught over 30 hands-on intensive, land-based workshops on the topics of natural building, alternative energy, composting, permaculture, alternative food, water and waste systems.

## Publications

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**Forthcoming.** Gobby, J. & Matthews, D.H. (2021). **Indigenizing climate policy in Canada.** In special issue *Energy Justice in the Era of Green Transitions in Research Topic*.

**Forthcoming.** Gobby, J., Temper, L., Burke, M., von Ellenrieder, N. (2021). Resistance as Governance: Transformative Strategies forged on the Frontlines of Extractivism in Canada. *The Extractive Industries and Society*.

**Forthcoming.** Gobby, J. & Temper, L. (2020). Transformative strategies developed by environmental justice and Indigenous land defense movements in Canada. In Rodriguez, I., (Ed). *Just transformations to sustainability from the ground-up: movements, resistances and alternatives*. London: Pluto Press.

**Forthcoming.** Gobby J., & Mailhot S. (2020). Are there biophysical limits to reducing inequality between humans? In Kish, K., (Ed.) *Ecological Economics Approaches to Achieving the SDGs*. London: Routledge.

Gobby, J. (2020). [\*More Powerful Together: Conversations with Climate Activists and Indigenous Land Defenders\*](#). Halifax: Fernwood Press.

Temper, L., Avila, S., Del Bene, D., Gobby, J., Kosoy, N., Lebillion, P., Martinez-Alier, J., Perkins, P., Roy, B., Scheidel, A., Walter, M., (2020) Movement demands for a transition to just carbon futures: A meta-analysis. *Environmental Research Letters*.

Gobby, J. (2019). [\*Allying with Indigenous Communities: Reporting on a Conference Workshop for Settler Researchers\*](#). *Women and Environments International Magazine*.

Gobby, J. (2019) [\*Confronting Economic Barriers to a Just Transition\*](#). *Briarpatch*.

Gobby, J. (2019). Climate Justice Montreal, In Perkins, P. E., (Ed). *Local Activism for Global Climate Justice: The Great Lakes Watershed*. London: Routledge.

Gobby, J., & Gareau, K. (2018). Understanding the crises, uncovering root causes, and envisioning the world(s) we want: Conversations with the anti-pipeline movements in Canada. In Jafry. T., (Ed.), *Routledge Handbook on Climate Justice* (pp. 449-464). London: Routledge.

Gobby, J. (2018). [Review of the book *The Archipelago of Hope: Wisdom and Resilience from the Edge of Climate Change*, by Raygorodetsky G.] *Environmental and Society: Advances in Research*, 9(1) pp.177-179.

Gobby, J. (2018). Introduction. In Mudgirls Collective, *The Mudgirls Manifesto: Handbuilt Homes, Handcrafted Lives* (pp.1-6). Gabriola: New Society

## Awards

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2019	<b>SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship</b> - 45 000\$ per year for 2 years
2015	<b>McGill Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science Award for Teaching Assistant Excellence</b> - 1000\$
2014-2017	<b>New Sun Joy Harvie Graduate Award</b> - 12 000\$ per year for 3 years
2013	<b>McGill MacLean Murray Scholarship</b> - 1400\$
2013	<b>Dean's Honours List</b> - McGill University

## Conferences and Public Speaking

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### Academic Conferences

Nov, 2020	<i>Building a New World in the Shell of the Old to Face the Climate Crisis: Between Transition, Resilience and Resistance</i> at CRITS École d'innovation sociale Élisabeth-Bruyère, Université Saint-Paul (Ottawa, ON) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Organized and hosted Virtual Panel</b> on Theories of Social Transformation from the Grassroots. This featured 3 Indigenous land defenders speaking about their own theories of transformation and about decolonizing research practices.</li></ul>
Oct, 2020	<i>Confronting The Climate Crisis with Systemic Alternatives in the Age of Corona Virus</i> at EJ/CJ – The Environmental & Climate Justice Studies Digital Hub, UC Santa Brabara (California, US) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Organized and hosted Virtual Panel</b> on What Covid-19 has been teaching us about the fight for climate justice. This panel features 3 community organizers from Montreal who have been responding to Covid-19 in ways that are socially transformative.</li></ul>

- June, 2019 *International Sustainability Transitions* conference at Carleton University (Ottawa, ON).
- **Presented paper** on Theories of Social Transformation from the Grassroots, based on a chapter of my doctoral thesis.
  - **Organized and moderated a panel** with Indigenous land defenders and environmental justice researchers about the links between resistance and building alternatives in transformative climate action. The session was livestreamed across Canada and attended in person at the conference.
- May, 2019 *Engaging Economies of Change*. Canadian Association of Ecological Economists (CANSEE) Conference (Waterloo, ON).
- **Presented paper** about the need for greater engagement with theories of social transformation among ecological economists.
  - **Organized and hosted** a workshop on best practices for research collaborations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. The workshop featured two Indigenous leaders and was the basis for an article which was later published.
- April, 2019 ACKnowIEJ Final Project Meeting at Boğaziçi University (Istanbul, Turkey).
- **Presented research** findings and updated map of Environmental Conflicts in Canada.
  - **Hosted workshop** to synthesize the main findings from across all participants' research throughout the 5-year project to compile a list of "Key Lessons for Activists and Communities".
- Nov, 2018 *CIARS Decolonizing Conference, University of Toronto (Toronto, ON)*
- **Presented paper** on Decolonizing and Decarbonizing Canada, sharing the overall results of my doctoral research.
- May, 2018 *The Great Transition Conference* (Montreal, QC).
- **Presented paper** on Decolonizing and Decarbonizing Canada, sharing the overall results of my doctoral research.
- Oct, 2017 *Economies in an Age of Limits: A Time for (R)evolution!* Canadian Association of Ecological Economists (CANSEE) Conference, (Montreal, QC).
- **Member of Conference Planning Committee.** Helped with all aspects of conference planning, with a focus on ensuring racial, gender and age diversity in conference presenters and keynotes and prioritizing the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives.
  - **Presented paper** called *Change in the Anthropocene: De-carbonizing and Decolonizing Canada*.
  - **Chaired special session** called 'Academics as Activists?' on the role of scholars in social transformation.
  - **Convened special session** called *Perspectives on natural capital and ecosystem services values: Contested concepts or pragmatic solutions?*
- 2015 *People and Planet in the Anthropocene*. Transformations Conference (Stockholm, Sweden)

- **Presented paper** on Indigenous rights and resistance as a powerful transformative force in Canada’s energy economy.

2015 *Pathways for Change: Towards a Just and Sustainable Economy*. Canadian Association of Ecological Economists (CANSEE) Conference (Vancouver, BC).

- **Presented paper** on Indigenous rights and resistance as a powerful transformative force in Canada’s energy economy.

### Invited Presentations, Guest Lectures, and other Public Speaking

Sept, 2020 **Moderator and organizer** for [Climate Science Teach In for Climate Activists](#), hosted by the CSIM climate lab at Concordia University.

Sept, 2020 **Panelists** on [Divestment from Fossil Fuels at McGill](#), a webinar hosted by PGSS McGill.

Sept, 2020 **Panelist** for Just Recovery Teach-in and Panelist Discussion organized by Climate Strike Canada. Other panelists included David Suzuki.

July, 2020 **Panelist** for [Climate Change: A World Beyond Covid-19](#), presented by CEED, Sustainable Concordia and other groups. Other panelists included Deborah MacGregor and Vanessa Nakate.

June, 2020 **Workshop facilitator** for [Holistic Activist Communities](#), as part of a part of Sustainable Concordia’s Sustain’Alive event series centred on activism, society, and the planet.

May, 2020 **Webinar Panelist** for event organized by Fernwood Publishing entitled [Environmental Transformation in Times of Crisis](#). Spoke about the links between the Covid-19 pandemic, social transformation, climate change, and environmental injustice

Mar, 2020 **Guest speaker** at Vanier’s International Women's Week Festival. Spoke about the links between climate change, oil and gas development, violence against women, and the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada.

Feb, 2020 **Guest Lecturer** about Participatory Action Research methods in the graduate course EDD 6005 ‘Knowledge Mobilization in Environment and Sustainable Development’ at Université de Montréal.

Jan, 2020 **Guest Lecturer** at pedagogical day for faculty, staff and administration about collective, and transformative approaches to addressing climate change. John Abbott College.

Nov, 2019 **Guest speaker** on the subject of transformative approaches to climate mitigation in Canada as part of a monthly seminar series on the Anthropocene at Université de Montréal.

Nov, 2019 **Guest Lecturer** about the climate action in Canada and about climate social science more generally in the undergraduate science course GÉO3152 ‘Changements Climatiques’ at Université de Montréal.

- Sept, 2019 **Panelist** in webinar entitled: [The Next Generation of Environmental Movements: Activism and Advocacy for Ecological Law](#), organized by The Earth Law Center and Economics for the Anthropocene with the support of the Ethics Specialist Group of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law.
- Sept, 2019 **Workshop co-facilitator.** Designed and co-presented workshop entitled “Living Sustainably and Taking Action on Climate Change”, part of a Concordia Student Union workshop series ‘Get Sustainable’ at Concordia University.
- Sept, 2019 **Workshop co-facilitator.** Co-led a workshop for faculty and graduate students at University of Vermont on best practices for research collaborations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. This was one session in a UVM speaker series on Power and Privilege.
- April 2019 **Guest Lecturer** about environmental justice and theories of transformation in undergraduate course in Resource Governance at Concordia.
- Feb, 2019 **Organizer and host** of [Symposium on Environmental Racism](#), which featured an all BIPOC panel of speakers from communities in Canada facing the impacts of environmental racism.
- Feb, 2019 **Workshop leader.** Gave two workshops (one on developing theories of change and one on building stronger movements through collaboration) at the Powershift Youth Climate Conference, in Ottawa.
- Jan, 2019 **Guest Speaker** at rally for International Women’s day in Montreal. Spoke about the links between climate change, oil and gas development and violence against women in Canada.
- Mar, 2019 **Workshop co-leader.** Co-led workshop on Building Holistic Movement Communities as part of Sustainable Concordia’s Sustain’Alive workshop series.
- Oct, 2018 **Invited Speaker.** Gave a talk on Natural Building, Climate Action and Social Transformation, for McGill’s annual Permaculture Week.

## Professional Development

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- 2017 Completed a day-long workshop on Participatory Action Research methods led by Professor Ernesto Mendez at the University of Vermont (Burlington, VT).
- 2016 Completed a 2-week graduate level summer school called Resurgence: *Settler Colonialism and Radical Indigenous Politics*, taught by Dene scholar, Professor Glen Coulthard at York University (Toronto, ON).
- 2006 Obtained a Permaculture Design Certificate upon completing a 2-week course in Permaculture Design. Earth Activist Training (Cazadero, CA).

2004 Completed a 6-month residential course on Eco-Construction and Design at St Norbert Arts Center (Winnipeg, MB).

## Non-Academic Work Experience

2008-2011 **Island Trustee**, [Islands Trust Local Government](#), (British Columbia). I was elected by the community of Lasqueti Island, BC to represent them on the local government. During this term in office I launched a community survey to establish a GHG emissions base line, worked with the community to set GHG emissions reduction targets and design place-based mitigation strategies. In addition, I founded the Community Environmental Stewardship Awards program, sat as a member of the Lasqueti Clean Energy Working Group, and successfully advocated for new policy on low-carbon, local food purchasing for Trust Council events.

2005-2011 **Founder, Builder, Facilitator**, [MudGirls Natural Building Collective](#), (British Columbia). I founded this feminist collective that has designed and built over 50 healthy, beautiful, affordable and climate-friendly houses on the west coast of Canada using natural and recycled materials and permaculture design principles. I coordinated crews of builders on worksites, organized and taught hands-on workshops about natural building, alternative energy, composting, permaculture, alternative water and waste systems, and food growing. The collective is still going strong.

## Volunteer Experience

2019-2020 **Steering Committee member**, [SHIFT Center for Social Transformation](#), Concordia University (Montreal, QC).

2017-2019 **Member of Board of Directors**, [Alternatives](#) (Montreal, QC).

2014- present **Organizer**, [Climate Justice Montreal](#), (Montreal, QC). I work with this grassroots group in Montreal to organize local education and direct-action events to promote climate and environmental justice, in solidarity with Indigenous land defenders.

2008-2012 **Tour Leader**, (Lasqueti Island, BC). I led educational Sustainability-themed tours of Lasqueti Island's unique off-the-grid homes, gardens and alternative power, water, and heating systems.

2007- 2010 **Tour manager and performer**, Lasquirkus - The Lasqueti Circus (Gulf Islands, BC). I organized and managed all aspects of two successful tours of this 30-member, community-based, sustainability-themed circus.