

Véronique Bussières, B.Sc., M.A.

veronique.bussieres@gmail.com

Areas of Expertise

Indigenous environmental stewardship, indigenous protected areas, marine protected areas, community-based resource management, conservation governance, indigenous resource management.

Spoken and Written Languages

French, English and Spanish.

Education

Jan. 2008- Present*

PhD. candidate, INDI Program, Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Concordia University

Principal supervisor: Dr. Monica Mulrennan

Preliminary thesis title: *A Critical Perspective on Bio-cultural Approaches to Conservation in Coastal Indigenous Settings*

* On parental leave: January 2010 - September 2011, and September 2013- April 2015

2002-2005

Master of Arts in Public Policy and Public Administration, Geography Option
Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Concordia University

Thesis: *Towards a Culturally-Appropriate Locally-Managed Protected Area for the James Bay Cree Community of Wemindji, Northern Québec*

Supervisor: Dr. Monica Mulrennan

1998-01

Bachelor of Science, Department of Biology, McGill University, Montréal

1995-97

DEC, Pure and Applied Sciences, Champlain Regional College, Saint-Lambert

Other Research Experience

2006 - 2007

Research Assistant, Wemindji Protected Areas Project, under the supervision of Dr. Mulrennan (Concordia, GPE) and Dr. Scott (McGill, Anthropology)

- Conducted an exhaustive review of published and non-published sources to compile all available ecological, geographical, economic and social information relative to a coastal and marine portion of the traditional territory of the Wemindji Cree Nation;
- Used this data to develop a proposal for a community-based marine protected area.

2000

Research internship (June-August), John G. Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, as part of an independent research project supervised by Dr. Amanda Vincent, Department of Biology, McGill University

- Designed and conducted a research project entitled: The influence of habitat type on newborn seahorses *H. reidi* behaviour.

Teaching Experience

2008-present

Part-time Lecturer, Concordia University, Department of Geography, Planning and Environment. Courses:

- Indigenous Peoples and the Environment (GEOG 407/607, winter 2017, 30 students)
- Indigenous Peoples, Well-being and Protected Areas (GEOG 498, fall 2016-winter 2017) reading course developed for Jessica Hewitt to support her training for the Bachelor's Degree in Human Environments
- Geographies of Northern Development (URBS 498, fall 2009), reading course developed for Marilyne Tremblay to support her training for the Bachelor's Degree in Urban Planning
- Humans and the Environment (GEOG 209, winter 2009, 80 students)
- Canadian Environmental Issues (GEOG 203, fall 2008, 120 students)

2016

Assistant to the coordinator for the development of a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on Complex Systems and the Ecosystem Approach; a collaboration between Concordia University and the United Nations Program for the Environment. Tasks included: writing of scripts for introductory videos to each module and development of Module 2: Ecosystems and the Ecosystems Approach.

2002

Teaching assistant, Urban Issues, Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Concordia University, under the supervision of Dr. Soukwan Chan.

- Workshops on research and academic writing skills, and grading.

2000

Teaching assistant, Introduction to Ecology, Department of Biology, McGill University, under the supervision of Dr. Rasmussen and Dr. Shoen.

- Leading discussion seminars, evaluation of oral presentations and grading.

Other Professional Experience

2012 - Present

Website creation and/or coordination:

- Indigenous Resource Management Research Group, www.irmlab.weebly.com
- Wemindji Protected Areas Project,
- www.wemindjiprotectedareapartnership.weebly.com

2014 - Present

Research Assistant, CICADA (Center for Indigenous Conservation and Development Alternatives)

- Website support (French translation)
- Support for grant applications (FQRSC)

2001 - 2003

Coordinator Biologist, Héritage Laurentien, LaSalle, QC.

- Developed a sustainable development plan for the shores of the St-Lawrence River south of Montréal;
- Coordinated a team of volunteers and environmental interpretation activities at Parc-des-Rapides, LaSalle.

January - May 2001

Internship, *Parque Natural Metropolitano*, Panama City, Panama.

- Developed an environmental education program for the Park.

Community Involvement

May 2016 – Present

Board member of the Québec chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (SNAP). Member of the Executive and Conservation committees.

Sept. 2012 - Present

Elected member and President (since Sept. 2014) of the governing board (*Conseil d'Établissement*) of École St-Marc, Montréal.

2009 - 2010

Board member of the Association Québécoise pour les Évaluation d'Impacts (AQÉI).

2006

Volunteer teacher and ecotourism consultant with Travel-to-Teach, Pai, Thailand.

Publications - Reports

Mulrennan, M. E., Bussières, V. and Scott, C.H. (2009). *Tawich (Marine) Conservation Area: Eastern James Bay*. Proposal presented to the National Marine Conservation Program, Parks Canada Agency, Ottawa.

Scott, K., Bussières, V., Archambault, S., Nasr, W., Fyles, J., Whitbeck, K., et al. (2009). *Augmenting Information for a Proposed Tawich National Marine Conservation Area Feasibility Assessment, James Bay Marine Region: Cultural and Bio-ecological Aspects*. McGill University, Concordia University, Montréal.

Bussières, V., Scott, K., Dolan, J., Stewart, H., Mulrennan, M. E., & Scott, C. H. (2008). *Weminji Marine and Island Surveys*. Concordia University, McGill University, Montréal.

Publications - Works Accepted, Submitted and in Progress

Bussières, V. (accepted). Invited review of the book : *Anthropologie des espaces côtiers et de la conservation environnementale : pêche, sel et flamants roses dans les réserves de biosphère yucatèques au Mexique*, by Sabinot et Doyon. *Anthropologica*, forthcoming.

Bussières, V., Mulrennan, M.E. and Stewart, D. (submitted). "Cultural Connections: the Wemindji Eeyouch and the James Bay Coast" In *The Science and Politics of Protected Area Creation: Striking the Balance* edited by Monica E. Mulrennan, Colin H. Scott and Katherine Scott. Vancouver: UBC Press.

Mulrennan, M.E. and Bussières, V. (in progress). "Social-Ecological Resilience in Indigenous Coastal Edge Contexts." For submission to *Ecology and Society*.

Selected Scholarships and Awards

2014-2017 Northern Scientific Training Program Research Grant

2012 - 2013 Concordia University Alumni Association Graduate Adopt-A-Student Award

2012 Québec Center for Biodiversity Science Excellence Award

2008 - 2011 *Canada Graduate Doctoral Scholarship*, offered by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

2008 - 2010 *Concordia University Graduate Fellowship*

2003 - 2004 *Bourse de Maîtrise en Recherche*, offered by the Fonds Québécois de Recherche sur la Société et la Culture

2003 *Maxwell Studentship in Human Geography*, offered by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society

2003 *Canadian Window on International Development Award*, offered by the International Development Research Center

Recent conference papers and sessions

2016

International Marine Conservation Congress, Memorial University, St-John's, Newfoundland (July 30-August 4).

Co-organizer (with A. Lalancette) of symposium entitled: *Making Marine Science Matter to People: Sharing Experiences*.

Paper presented: *Protected areas at the land-sea interface: lessons for collaboration, the case of the Wemindji Protected Areas Project* (with M.E. Mulrennan)

- 2015
Center for Indigenous Conservation and Development Alternatives (CICADA) annual conference, St-Paulin, Québec (October 23-27).
Poster presented (with M.E. Mulrennan): *The Proposed Tawich (Marine) Conservation Area*
- 2013
Canadian Association of Geographers 2013 Annual Meeting, Memorial University, St-John's, Newfoundland (August 11-15).
Organizer of special session entitled: *Bio-cultural approaches to conservation and resource management in aboriginal settings*
Paper presented: *A critical analysis of bio-cultural conservation in Canadian coastal aboriginal settings*
- 2013
George Wright Society Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites, Denver, Colorado (March 11-15).
Paper presented (with Chief Rodney Mark, Wemindji Cree First Nation): *Are ICCAs the solution? Overcoming challenges and harnessing opportunities*
- 2012
Québec Center for Biodiversity Science 2012 Annual Symposium, UQAM, Montréal (December 13-14).
Paper presented: *Les aires protégées peuvent-elles concilier protection de la diversité biologique et de la diversité culturelle?*
- 2012
Coastal Zone Canada International Conference, Rimouski (June 9-14).
Paper presented (with Monica E. Mulrennan): *A conceptual framework for coastal marine protected areas beyond edges*
- 2012
Canadian Association of Geographers 2012 Annual Meeting, University of Waterloo, Ontario (May 28-June 2).
Paper presented (with Monica E. Mulrennan): *Coastal Marine Protected Areas Beyond Edges*
- 2012
International Polar Year Conference, Montréal (April 23-27).
Co-organised and presented in panel entitled: *Aa-wiichaaautuwiihkw (travelling together): Knowledge Exchange as part of the Wemindji Protected Areas Project*
- 2010
Symposium sur les Aires Marines Protégées au Québec, Rimouski (June 10-11).
Paper presented as part of invited panel with Dr. Colin Scott, Dr. Monica Mulrennan, and Deputy Chief Dennis Georgekish (Cree Nation of Wemindji): *Wemindji and the Tawich Marine Conservation Project*

References available upon request