

Cara Lynn McHardy

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A highly motivated professional with academic skills and international experience in interdisciplinary scientific research, technical data visualisation, and collaborative communication, I approach complex industrial and ecological issues in a holistic manner. With a depth of perspective, interdisciplinary approach, curiosity and keen eye for detail, I engage with evolving challenges, adapting rapidly and continuously improving outcomes.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

2017 - 2019

Master of Science in Industrial Ecology

Department of Energy and Process Engineering, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway Erasmus+ scholar at Leiden University and TU Delft, Netherlands

Courses: Life cycle assessment, life cycle impact assessment, material flow analysis, environmentally-extended input-output analysis, ecotoxicology, ecological-hydrological modeling, environmental politics, climate change mitigation, IPBES-sponsored interdisciplinary team project, research design in biodiversity and ecosystem services, biostatistics, biodiversity analysis methodologies, GIS spatial analysis.

Thesis: Modeling the biodiversity impacts of marine plastic debris in Life Cycle Impact Assessment.

Conference Poster: Summary of above thesis for 2019 International Society of Industrial Ecology Conference.

2012

Permaculture Design Certification

The Possibility Alliance, La Plata, Missouri, United States

Design techniques for ecological property development including climate, topography, hydrology, natural resource conservation and efficiency (water, energy), land-use planning, structural optimization.

2009

Additional Science Courses

Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, California, United States

University-level laboratory courses in marine biology and chemistry.

2008

Workshop Facilitator training

Sustainable Works, Santa Monica, California, United States

Curriculum research and design, public speaking and multimedia presentation skills, training in effective teaching techniques, critical thinking and debate skills.

2000 - 2005

Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design, Minor in Studio Art

Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Kansas & Colorado State University; United States

Curriculum: Auto-CAD, Solidworks, design(industrial & art), manufacturing organization, materials & processes, human factors engineering, industrial safety & production, design concept visualization, strategic communication, manufacturing and design history, technical and design drawing, digital photography, model making.

Other courses: Architecture, biology, calculus, chemistry, micro/macro-economics, environmental studies, history intercultural communication, journalism, literature/composition, philosophy, psychology, public speaking, sociology,

SKILLS

Languages

English	Listening Native	Reading Native	Speaking Native	Writing Native
Spanish	Intermediate	Intermediate	Elementary	Elementary
French	Elementary	Elementary	Basic	Basic
Czech	Basic	Basic	Basic	Basic

Communication

Formal language education in Dutch, French, Spanish and Czech. Dutch is spoken at home.

Compassionate, engaging communicator, experience forming cohesive teams transcending cultural differences. Creator of professional documents and presentations, e.g., grant proposals, technical/scientific research reports.

Organisational

Efficient administrator and project coordinator, also experienced in technical, web and design-related tasks. Detail-oriented multi-disciplinary researcher with years of practice cataloging and presenting technical data. Aptitude for creative problem-solving through collaboration in academic and professional contexts.

Technical

RStudio, Matlab, ArcGIS, OpenLCA, Arda LCA, STAN (substance flow analysis), MAXENT (species dist. modeling), MS Office (Word, Excel, Access, Powerpoint), Oracle DB, SQL, Endnote, Adobe Creative Suite, Auto-CAD, SolidWorks. Professional technical experience in research, product, web and database design.

2014 – 2015 Researcher, Crew, English Tutor

Various locations, South Pacific Oceania

Crewed and taught English aboard a sailing yacht crossing the South Pacific. Observed local agricultural practices, waste disposal issues and the effects of climate change and plastic debris on island and ocean ecosystems.

2008 – 2013 Program Coordinator, Environmental Education and Research

Sustainable Works, Santa Monica, California, United States www.sustainableworks.org

Professional development, outreach and implementation of an environmental curriculum in Los Angeles and Santa Monica. Taught government-funded workshops for students, residents and businesses explaining climate and environmental research to lay-people, promoting citizen engagement and ecological footprint reduction.

Surfrider Foundation, Los Angeles, California, United States www.surfrider-southbay.org

Volunteer leading local high school students in testing water quality and removing trash at polluted marshes and beaches, teaching them about conservation issues through hands-on experience.

Algalita Marine Research & 5 Gyres, Long Beach, California, United States www.5gyres.org

Volunteer educating community members about marine plastic pollution and the foundation's research in this field. Cataloged related research projects for an online database.

Friends of Ballona Wetlands, Marina Del Rey, California, United States www.ballonafriends.org

Wetland restoration: removed invasive plants and assisted in restoration at one of Los Angeles' last intact estuaries. Taught about the local ecosystem, native species and migrating birds.

2008 – 2011 Product & Web Design, Sales Operations

Yogitoes Inc., Santa Monica, California, United States www.manduka.com/products/yogitoes-yoga-towel

Product design, web and database development/maintenance, marketing and sales coordination for a patented line of specialized yoga products.

2005 – 2008 National Program Coordinator, Office Manager

Arabian Horse Association, Denver, Colorado, United States www.arabianhorses.org

Coordination, marketing, and execution of programs and events including equestrian riding programs and national championship events; event office management for this 40,000-member non-profit equestrian organization.

2004 – 2005 Professional Industrial Design Internship

Vibralung, Inc, Denver, Colorado, United States

Assisted in research, design and ISO9000 analysis of a medical device aiding chronic lung ailments.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

2015 – 2017 English Teacher and Methodologist

Wattsenglish and Presto Language Schools, Karlovy Vary and Prague, Czech Republic www.wattsenglish.cz

Planned and taught group and individual classes for child and adult students at all levels. Developed curriculum and methodology; classroom management trainer for colleagues; completed A2 level Czech language courses.

The Learning Farm, Cianjur, West Java, Indonesia www.thelearningfarm.com

Coordinated and taught daily, mixed-level class for 32 youths from troubled backgrounds in a skills-development program in permaculture farming, language, business and technology training.

Cambridge Certificate in English Language Teaching (CELTA)

Intensive teacher training including collaborative planning, peer observation, evaluation and feedback. 6 hrs. of observed and assessed teaching, 50 hrs. of input and 6 hrs. teacher observation.

2008 – 2015 Property Manager

self-employed, Denver, Colorado, United States

Independently managed all aspects of leasing a private property to various tenants. Work included supervising repairs, advising tenants, collecting rents and keeping all legal documentation in order.

PERSONAL INFO

Belgian resident with legal right to work in EU. Open to academic, temporary and permanent positions. Will relocate based on ease of transportation to/from work.