

## Curriculum Vitae

# James T (Jim) Jones

M.Sc.

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**Enthusiastic and passionate individual seeking opportunities to support organisations and communities navigate problems and build and strengthen relationships through participatory sensemaking, visioning and action planning.**

### Summary of Qualifications

- 20 years' experience in building and working with community groups to create visions, build skills and deliver actions.
  - Highly experienced in project design, management and financing.
  - Facilitator supporting organisations and community groups to work with complex problems through sensemaking, visioning and action plan processes
  - 9 years in various Support Worker roles including in a residential home for differently abled people.
  - Personal experience of facing challenges to and finding solutions for my own mental health and overall wellness.
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- **Coordination and Facilitation of Regular Engagement Activities**
    - Designed, managed and funded **Land Skills for Wellness and Sustainability** programme to provide access for students, staff and faculty at University of Waterloo to communal nature-based activities to promote wellbeing and sustainable practice.
    - As founder and Coordinator of **Ontario Land Skills Network (OLSN)**, I have delivered a range of workshops including hedgelaying, basketweaving and spoon carving. I also coordinate with other skills facilitators to arrange workshops and public events such as the annual "SpoonMoot" and Scything Gathering
    - Designed, managed, and funded **citizen science programs** 'Hedgerows for Dormice,' 'Hedgerow Heroes' and 'Riversearch' to engage volunteers in meaningful nature-based activities while meeting conservation objectives.
  - **Outreach to Groups and Individuals**
    - Gave talks on a range of topics to a wide variety of community groups while at **Surrey Wildlife Trust** to provide information and entertainment and enlist support for our work.

- While managing citizen science projects, I conducted landowner outreach and education to enlist support and inform on habitat management best practices for hedgerows and rivers
- **Interviews and Focus groups**
  - As a **freelance facilitator**, and with **ORIAS** and **Surrey Wildlife Trust**, provided facilitation of workshops for a range of community organisations including Food Systems Round Table Waterloo Region, Oak Ridges Institute for Applied Sustainability and Surrey Catchment partnerships for sensemaking, visioning and action planning.
  - For my PhD at the University of Waterloo, I have interviewed 30 participants and will be analysing the data to inform my thesis on narratives of land-based livelihoods
- **Understand and use a range of Engagement methods**
  - My principal method for facilitation when working with complex problems is **Participatory Narrative Inquiry (PNI)** which I have used successfully to support organisations and community groups in sensemaking, visioning and action planning towards strategic goals.
  - I have trained as a **complex facilitator** with Harvest Moon Consultants and with **The Cynefin Co.** I recently became a **Warm Data Host** by training with the International Bateson Institute and hosted an online “People Need People” session through the Waterloo Institute for Complexity and Innovation.
  - Through my work as skills teacher, I recognise the power of engaging around an activity (e.g.) basket weaving, spoon-carving) and the importance of place (e.g. familiar/unfamiliar) and how these effect outcomes.
  - I am adept at public/conference speaking. I was regularly booked as a speaker during my work at Surrey Wildlife Trust
  - As a founder and coordinator of OLSN, I built a website to act as focus for information and course-booking. I have become adept at using social media, particularly Facebook, Instagram, and You-tube for advertising events and to promote interest through videos and live broadcasts.
  - I have co-hosted one episode of the Doomer-Optimism podcast and recognise the power of this form of engagement [Doomer Optimism Episode D0119 Stories, Places and Feeling at home in the world](#)
  - I write my own blog [James T Jones \(Blog\) Navigating The Adjacent Possible](#) Needs updating!
- **Project Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Admin.**
  - Through multiple roles, for instance as Living Landscapes Manager at Surrey Wildlife Trust and The Peoples Trust for Endangered Species I have become a highly experienced project manager, adept at project design, securing funding, implementation, line management of personnel, monitoring, and reporting.
- **Team Working and Meetings**
  - I have worked as a member of teams through most of my career.
    - As a Research Assistant I have regular meetings with my supervisor and other relevant team members (both online and offline) where I take notes and action points for delivery and reporting at subsequent sessions
    - At Surrey Wildlife Trust I worked within a series of teams at different scales. I co-managed a 5 member Living Landscape team which was based in and reported to the

Biodiversity, Evidence and Planning Department. I was one of 3 representatives from the Department reporting to the Senior Management team across all departments.

- **Champion co-production and the value of service user involvement across all activities and interactions**
  - I have a long history of working towards participatory governance and service-user involvement:
    - Through a 9-year career as a support worker, rising to a senior level in a residential home for differently abled people and gaining an NVQ Level 2 in Promoting Independence
    - Developing Catchment Based Partnerships for involving over 30 diverse organisations, community groups and individuals focussed on participatory governance of two Surrey rivers.
    - Working with local communities in “Building Resilience” using PNI and Asset-Based Community Development plans to focus on building local resilience to “external threats” including Climate Change and Covid.

## **Current Positions**

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2018-Ongoing	<b>Independent Facilitator (ad hoc/contract).</b> Facilitation for organisations and communities for sensemaking, visioning and action planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2024 Food Systems Round Table Waterloo Region</li><li>• 2020 Oak Ridges Institute for Applied Sustainability</li><li>• 2019 Friends of the Dingle School House</li></ul>
2024-2025 (P/T)	<b>PhD Candidate,</b> Social and Ecological Sustainability, School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability, University of Waterloo, Canada.
2020-2024 (FT)	
2018-2024	<b>Co-Ordinator,</b> Ontario Land Skills Network

## **Previous Relevant Positions**

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2021 Jan-Oct	<b>Resilient Palgrave Initiative Coordinator,</b> Oak Ridges Institute for Applied Sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordination of stakeholder surveys and facilitation of participatory workshops</li></ul>
2019 Mar-Oct	<b>Knowledge Management Consultant,</b> STORM (Save The Oak Ridges Moraine) Coalition Project Protect Our Water: Building a Moraine Movement in the Greater Golden Horseshoe <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordination of stakeholder surveys and facilitation of participatory workshops</li></ul>
2011 Jul-2018 May	<b>Living Landscapes Project Officer/ Manager,</b> Surrey Wildlife Trust, UK.

- Delivery of Living Landscape Strategy through evidence review, objective-setting, stakeholder engagement and project delivery.
- 2013 Jun- Aug **Mammal and Herpetological Surveys Team Leader, Operation Wallacea, Romania 2013 (Jun- Aug)**
- 2008 Apr - 2011 Jul **Hedgerows for Dormice Project Officer & other roles Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species London.**
- Further developed volunteer management and science communication skills by creating and delivered a national citizen science project based on scientific research to help address declines in endangered mammal
- 2005 Apr – 2007 Feb **Consultant Ecologist, Thomson Ecology, Guildford, Surrey.**
- Provided scientific and policy advice to a range of clients and projects and undertook and supervised EIAs, baseline Ecological Assessments and Protected Species Surveys.
- 2004 Sep- 2005 Apr **Volunteer & Farmer Alliance/ Conservation Officer, RSPB, Eastern England, Norwich.**
- Pre-2000 **Senior Support Worker (Learning Disabilities), Home Farm Trust and others. Pre 2000**
- Team Leader at a home for people with learning difficulties providing day to day care and access to living opportunities.

## Education

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### Degrees

- 2020-2025? PhD Social and Ecological Sustainability, University of Waterloo, Canada.  
*Emerging from the land: narratives of change in land-based livelihoods*
- 2003 to 2004 **MSc Applied Ecology and Conservation**, University of East Anglia, (NERC Funded).
- 2000-2003 **BSc (Hons) Ecology (2:1)** University of Plymouth.

### Certificates

- 2020-2024 **Fundamentals of University Teaching**, Centre for Teaching Excellence, University of Waterloo  
 Courses: Effective Lesson Plans; Classroom delivery skills; Giving and Receiving feedback; Collecting and Using Feedback; Microteaching Practical Developing Your Teaching Skills in Grad School
- 2020 **Classical Sociological theory MOOC**, University of Amsterdam
- 2019 **Introduction to Complexity MOOC**, Sante Fe Institute
- 2018 **Economic Literacy Project Workshop Series**, Sustainability Network
- Landscape Ecology MOOC**, ETH Zurich.
- Transforming Development: The Science and Practice of Resilience Thinking** MOOC SDG Academy/Stockholm Resilience Centre
- 2000 NVQ Level 2 Promoting Independence
- 1999-2000 'A' level Biology, Kingston College, Surrey.
- 1999 Certificate in Natural Sciences, Open University
- 1986-89 3 'A' levels, 1 'A/O' level, 8 'O'Levels Ewell High School, Surrey