

Masters in Environmental Studies

Statement Of Purpose

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MES:

Thank you for presenting the Masters in Environmental Studies program, I would love to study again at Evergreen for its commitment to society, justice, and the liminal space that it creates to build, research, and nurture a future worthy of passing down for the next 7 generations. I believe Evergreen State College is a generative space for pursuing and continuing research in bioremediation within a political ecology framework, for participating and contributing in the arising momentum of Degrowth and Buen Vivir, as well as fostering a community of environmental cross disciplinary leaders and thinkers. I am a dedicated and hard working, happy individual. I have a BA in Regenerative Systems from Evergreen State College, and over 15 years experience working directly with communities in the global North and South towards justice, alternative economies/educational systems, and ecological care. My environmental work has been alongside the USFS, Departments of Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, Dehradun Institute of Science and Technology, the City of Berkley, Portland and Chicago, among other private, state, national, and international agencies.

While I have reached a level of satisfactory progress in my field, I feel that there is more that I can do, and a new level of skills that I must apply myself to in order to fully participate and serve in the manner of which I dedicate myself to. I spoke at the UN declaration of the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration on Ecosystem Deliverables of Wildfires, which was very dear to my core purpose, and have committed myself to the application of these practices in the field. While Mondragon and the Cooperative movement have been influential to my collective and business foundations. I would like to push into what a degrowth and doughnut economy can look like in a social entrepreneurship manner that provides pathways and livelihoods to connect the Buen Vivir movements of the Global South to the Degrowth participants in the Global North. This may look like work visas, education centers, the remediation of brownfields, all of which I have piloted over the last few years by myself, but I need more support to fully realize these goals. One of the core goals is to not only connect the two movements in an emerging environmental economics forum, but to also restore the 1 billion hectares globally by 2030. While I have a growth plan for it and the inkling of its inception, it needs more work, more dissemination, and a greater basis of knowledge, wisdom, and input, which is why I am seeking out this masters programme.

Recently my research has spanned topics including international climate policy and carbon colonization, bioremediation and environmental toxins, ecological grassroots projects in the global South, etc. detailed in my CV. I started in Portland, Oregon, studying bioremediation, green infrastructure, and placemaking, then moved to Montreal, looking at cooperative economic models and publishing 'Emerging Societal Organization Strategies: Blockchain, bitcoin, E-residency, and Cryptocurrencies'¹. From Montreal I went to Paris, studying the intersection of forced migration, climate refugees, climate apartheid and

¹ Article Published in Works In Progress:

<http://www.olywip.org/emerging-societal-organization-structures-blockchain-bitcoin-e-residency-cryptocurrencies/>

bioremediation skill-sharing in response to climate change. I then returned to the Pacific Northwest where I finished my degree in Regenerative Systems as well as completing my research paper, “Historical Survey of the Climate Crises and the Imperative of Reorganization Strategies through Degrowth and Buen Vivir”. I was then accepted to ICTA at UAB for a Masters in Degrowth and Political Ecology, where my studies were interrupted by Covid, and economic turmoil led me to establish my own business with the goal of promoting more womyn and underrepresented folx in the forestry industry. Since its inception in 2020, it has successfully provided livelihoods for 22 people during the pandemic, with a near continuous running crew of 6 throughout the 4 years of its current course. We have held youth immigrant and refugee internship programs, resulting in 100% of our interns securing college scholarships and acceptance because of their work with us. We have reestablished a Critically threatened Species, tracked 4 endangered species, and have increased economic and environmental prosperity for all of our clients and communities which we have worked in. I need this Masters Programme to continue my academic rigor, challenge myself, and to bring the utmost best to the communities I serve. The work that is demanded for ecologically inclined folks is ever increasing, and I want to ensure that the highest quality work is performed with the most current research and critical perspective for the benefit of all beings, all species, for as much time as I can steward, care, and prepare for.

I grew up nomadically across the USA, born to a Japanese Slovak mom and an Irish Seneca father, thus I was exposed to many diverse groups and their unifying human qualities. I began working as a young teenager along the US/Mexico border with No Mas Muertes², helping provide water, food and healthcare for those walking the desert. For years I detached myself from dominant economic systems; squatting, ridesharing, creating Share-Fairs³, herbal apothecaries, and Free Skools. I've been a volunteer and core-organizer for community conferences, including Bioneers⁴ and Village Building Convergence⁵. I've owned and run an art gallery and alternative lecture space, Theoria, and was a featured mixed media artist at Art Basel. For over a decade I've worked on forest restoration projects, endangered species surveys, built bioswales and implemented bioremediation techniques for the city landscape. I was selected as one of 23 researchers from around the world to pilot the first Degrowth Masters Programme, now in its 7th iteration. I lived and worked in Catalonia, before trekking across former Yugoslavia for my project on Ethnobotany and Regenerative Plant Systems

Recently I've owned and operated an Ecosystem Restoration company in Olympia, Portland, Croatia, Spain, and Arizona for the past 4 years since 2020. The last four years of running my company I knew that I would eventually return to academia once the pandemic and its detritus had blown over. In the meantime I kept myself busy learning new skills and gaining certificates that would allow me to be as useful to my community as possible. I focused on environmental disasters and their response, gaining experience in HAZWOPER, oil spill cleanup and remediation, firefighting on one of the largest fires in the Pacific Northwest, Bootleg, a 414,000 acre fire, teaching ecosystem remediation strategies to firefighters across the state, gaining more rescue experience which is always beneficial when working in ecology in remote locations, becoming a professional firefighter for both wildland and structure, and working on my pilots and drone license.

Being a part of Evergreen to me means nurturing and contributing to a courageous, beautiful, and care-centered, thoughtful, and action-oriented community. This Master's Programme will allow me to learn

² No Mas Muertes: <http://forms.nomoredeaths.org/en/>

³ Interview of me by the Oregonian on the Really Really Free Market:
http://www.oregonlive.com/living/index.ssf/2009/07/at_this_portland_market_everyt.html

⁴ Bionners: <http://bioneers.org/>

⁵ Village Building Convergence: <https://villagebuildingconvergence.com>

and engage the tools I need to contribute more to our society, and provide a community with which to witness the emergent influence these generations will have on the future of life on earth and the planetary boundaries. I love promoting inclusivity and creating spaces of belonging, as well as diving into deep and difficult conversations and seeing what comes out of the emerging dialogue⁶. I love the unknown of what is happening next, and am glad to dream, work, and contribute to a future designed for all of life.

Thank you for your time and effort,

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"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete." -Buckminster Fuller

Masters in Environmental Studies Petition Statement

I believe I meet the requirements for the MES programme as follows:

Social Science: My previous coursework with ICTA UAB the Institute of Science and Technology in Barcelona helped me learn and apply Environmental Economics, Degrowth and Doughnut Economics. Im

⁶ David Bohms *On Dialogue* MIT program *U-lab, Leading from the Emerging Future* by Otto Schruamer

waiting on a copy of my past coursework with ICTA and Degrowth and Political Ecology Program at UAB, will forward it when it arrives from Spain. I've been working with the general public and governmental organizations throughout Washington and Oregon, preparing policy research and disseminating knowledge and practical skills.

Natural Science: I've been practicing Ecology, botany, endangered species and Bioremediation for the last 4 years with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Forestry, contractors, and FEMA for pre and post fire mitigation and oil spill clean-up. I worked alongside Elaine Ingrahm at Sols Vivants in Montreal (2018) and took her Soils Science course (2019), and applied a lot of that knowledge to the oil spill I responded to in the winter of 2022/23 with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Clean Harbors.

Statistics:

I've used rudimentary statistics in EIA Environmental Impact Assessments with double paired T Tests for running variables of rainfall, precipitation, and drought factor for the occurrence of wildfire and policy proposals in the Cascadia Bioregion, using long term trends and seasonal variability. While I have recent (2022-2023) practical application of this while working for the Department of Forestry, it was more of a chore and not my favorite activity. I do have an agenda to reach some of my goals within quantitative assessments:

My 2025-2028 Statistic Goals: I hope to further my work with SEEA, to better understand its role in biodiversity policy and conservation goals. If there is the potential to quantify the qualitative values through a set of statistics and indicators tying emerging economics to environmental regeneration and protection, then I would love to use these SNA aggregates to better communicate ecosystem degradation and a pathway towards improvements and restoration benchmarks. I would also like to continue work alongside Global Forest Watch and ClasLite Satellite monitoring (circa 2021).

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