

Jessica Dolan, PhD

Dr. Jessica Dolan earned a PhD in environmental anthropology and Indigenous studies (2016) and an MSc in ethnobotany (2005). Originally from Vermont, she has been working as a researcher and environmental professional on Indigenous environmental projects in the Northeast since 2007. Some examples were the Wemindji Protected Areas Project, a community-based project to establish a biocultural marine-terrestrial protected area for the Cree Nation of Wemindji (2007- 10); Protectors of Mother Earth, a waste remediation and composting education project at the Onondaga Nation (2014); and as a designer and coordinator for the 2015 Global Diversity Foundation North American Community Environmental Leadership Exchange, which convened forty Indigenous environmental leaders and students at the Montreal Botanical Garden to exchange best practices. Her doctoral field research and writing on Haudenosaunee environmental knowledge took place between 2010 and 2016, involving interviewing, experiential learning, and volunteer work with elders, educators, youth, and environmental professionals from Six Nations of the Grand River, Kahnawà:ke, Akwesasne, Onondaga, Tuscarora, and Tonawanda. She has also worked for the Mohawk Nation of Akwesasne Environment Program on environmental research and education planning and grant writing (2017-18). Before working with Indigenous communities, Jessica carried out ethnobiology research in Ireland, did an internship at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, and worked at the Harvard University Herbaria in the Botanical collections. Most recently, in 2019-2020, she was the Fulbright Canada Visiting Research Chair in Indigenous Studies at the University of Guelph. Her ongoing work combines research in archives, museums, and herbaria with community-based collaboration to explore Indigenous food systems and culturally significant plants, resurgence of traditional environmental knowledge, environmental protection and restoration projects, and adapting to climate changes. For more information about Jessica, please see her website at www.jessica-dolan.com