

Kiri Staples, PhD

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SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Strong academic and applied foundation in sustainability assessment, cumulative effects, Indigenous co-governance and co-management, socio-economic and socio-cultural research, and natural resource management in the North
- Over a decade of planning, executing, collaborating on, and leading qualitative research projects involving northern communities, non-government organizations, Indigenous nations, territorial and provincial governments, and co-management institutions
- Extensive experience analyzing and summarizing large sets of qualitative data
- Ability to design, support, and facilitate engagement processes involving diverse parties and perspectives to address complex issues and questions
- Strong communicator, including with academic, technical, and lay audiences
- Approach that is relational, curiosity-driven, and community-based

WORK EXPERIENCE

Principal, Northwest Research & Consulting Group – Whitehorse, YT (*Aug. 2017 – present*)

- Offer analysis, research, and guidance for Indigenous governments and co-management organizations on issues of sustainability assessment, socio-economic and socio-cultural impacts of resource development, co-governance and co-management, and cumulative effects.
- Design and facilitate collaborative, multi-party processes (e.g., meetings, workshops, roundtables, forums), in-person and online, on issues related to natural resource management and stewardship.
- Provide support for the development of grant applications and community-driven research projects, as well as provide expertise in qualitative data collection, data analysis, knowledge translation, and knowledge mobilization.
- Clients have included Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government, Yukon University, Taku River Tlingit First Nation, Alaska Conservation Society, Yukon Government, Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce, Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board, T'akhu Â Tlèn Conservancy, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Carcross Tagish First Nation, Selkirk First Nation, Yukon Forum Fish and Wildlife Steering Committee, and the Council of Yukon First Nations.
- Examples of recent projects:

Yukon Planning and Assessment collaborative workshop (*Nov. 2021 – Apr. 2022*)

- Designed, facilitated, and reported on a workshop for regional planning and impact assessment staff in the Yukon, with the aim of fostering a better understanding of the relationship between the two processes

- Cumulative Effects working group** (*Sept. 2021 – Apr. 2022*)

 - Represented Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in government on a working group for the Dawson Regional Land Use Planning Commission and provided expertise on socio-economic and socio-cultural values

- Yukon Wetlands Policy Roundtable** (*Sept. 2021 – Feb. 2022*)

 - Developed and facilitated a workshop to discuss a Yukon wetlands policy with government (territorial, federal, Indigenous), NGO, and industry representatives; led a qualitative analysis; and prepared a final report based on the workshop and other engagement processes

- Äshèyi Research Project** (*Jan. 2021 – Feb. 2022*)

 - Conducted archival research on the history of Äshèyi (Aishihik Lake) and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations governance

- Taku River Tlingit RELAW project** (*Jan. 2021 – Apr. 2022*)

 - Conducted a series of interviews on Tlingit law with Taku River Tlingit citizens

- YESAB Forum on Cumulative Effects** (*Dec. 2020 – Feb. 2021*)

 - Designed, facilitated, and reported on a three-day, multi-party forum on cumulative effects in the Yukon

- Fortymile Caribou Herd Industrial Guidance** (*Nov. 2020 – Present*)

 - Collaborating with a renewable resource council to translate technical data on caribou migration into plain language guidelines for industrial activities in the Fortymile Caribou herd's range

- Yukon Community Travel Project** (*Nov. 2020 – Jun. 2021*)

 - Organized, facilitated, and reported on a series of Yukon-wide online workshops on the challenges of inter-community transportation

- Assessment of the Faro Mine Remediation project** (*Oct. 2020 – Apr. 2022*)

 - Co-facilitated a series of online technical sessions for parties involved in the Faro Mine remediation project (e.g., affected First Nations, Government of Canada, Government of Yukon, assessors) as it goes through the impact assessment process

- Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) review of Atlin Hydro Expansion Project** (*Jul. 2020 – Apr. 2022*)

 - Researched and prepared a sustainability assessment of the proposed Atlin Hydro Expansion Project for TRTFN, including working with TRTFN staff, leadership, Elders and organizing TRTFN events

Äshèyi Technical Working Group (*Apr. 2020 – Apr. 2021*)

- Organized and co-facilitated meetings for the Äshèyi Technical Working Group - involving territorial and First Nation governments and industry – during the relicensing process for the Aishihik dam

Northern Connections project (*Mar. 2020 – Dec. 2020*)

- Organized, co-facilitated, and reported on a 3-day online workshop, involving over 100 people, that brought together community-based monitoring programs across Alaska, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and northern British Columbia

Selkirk First Nation Traditional Land Use Mapping Project (*Aug. 2017 – Sept. 2019*)

- Conducted a qualitative thematic analysis for Selkirk First Nation based on traditional land use interview data

Sessional instructor, Yukon University - Whitehorse, YT (*Sept. – Dec. 2021*)

- Instructed a course on intergovernmental relations within the Indigenous Governance program, including course design, lecture preparation and delivery, marking, student mentorship, and related responsibilities.

Teaching assistant and research assistant, University of Waterloo – Waterloo, ON (*Sept. 2016 – Apr. 2017*)

- Led seminars, provided student mentorship, and carried out related responsibilities for courses on environmental assessment and sustainability.
- Provided research and editorial support for several collaborative research projects on topics related to sustainability, regional and strategic assessment, and climate change.

Project Manager, University of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon, SK (*Oct. 2014 – May 2017*)

- Coordinated and maintained communication between community partners, researchers, and students in five communities across the Northwest Territories, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.
- Created and tracked project budget (~\$100,000).
- Hired and managed two northern community coordinators and two research assistants, including providing training in community-based research and data analysis.
- Assisted in the development of knowledge translation strategies for academic and lay audiences.

Research Assistant, Yukon Research Centre – Whitehorse, YT (*May 2009 – Aug. 2012*)

- Supported two pan-northern, social science research projects, including conducting data collection, leading knowledge mobilization activities, organizing community-based workshops across the North, and related responsibilities.

EDUCATION AND SELECT AWARDS

PhD in Ecological and Social Sustainability, School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability, University of Waterloo - Waterloo, ON (*Sept. 2016 – May 2022*)

- Dissertation focussed on sustainability, co-governance, and cumulative effects of resource development in the Yukon
- Received a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, a W. Garfield Weston Fellowship, and the Provost Doctoral Entrance Award for Women

Master of Environment and Sustainability, School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon, SK (*Sept. 2012 – Sept. 2014*)

- Thesis focussed on gender, decision-making, and co-management boards in the Yukon
- Received a Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship, a Northern Resident Scholarship, and a Prize for the Best Paper or Article by the Society of Policy Sciences.

Bachelor of Arts (Honours), International Development Studies, Trent University - Peterborough, ON (*Sept. 2007 – May 2011*)

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST