

LILIAN DART (SHE/HER)

Department of Geography & Planning, University of Toronto
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental communication, social networks, environmental governance, collaboration, conservation, climate change, environmental policy, qualitative research, social change.

EDUCATION

University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) – Human Geography

September 2023-present

Working thesis title: “Talking Stewardship: How Messages and Messengers Shape Canada’s Working Landscapes”

Supervisor: Dr. Andrea Olive (Supervisory Committee: Dr. Hanna Morris, Dr. Jeremy Pittman)

Collaborative specialization in Environmental Studies

Trent University, Peterborough, ON

Master of Arts (M.A.) - Sustainability Studies

2022

Thesis: “Community and conservation: contemporary constructions of land protection among volunteers involved in a local land trust”

Supervisor: Dr. Stephanie Rutherford (Supervisory Committee: Ian Attridge)

Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B.

Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) – Biology (minor: Geography)

2018

Thesis: “Citizen science and experiential learning: tick education for New Brunswick provincial curriculum”

Supervisor: Dr. Vett Lloyd and Dr. Michael Fox

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

Sessional Instructor

January 2026-Present

- I create the course syllabus, material, and instruct weekly classes in the Department of Geography, Geomatics and Environment. Additionally, I grade student work, liaise with, and mentor undergraduate students.
- Courses taught: ENV435 (Governing the Environmental Commons, Winter 2026)

Program for Accessing Research Training (PART) Instructor

January 2025-Present

- I create course material and instruct modules for undergraduate students on qualitative research through the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre.
- Modules: Conducting Interviews, Leading a Focus Group, Survey Design.
- Undergraduate students who participate receive 3 CCR notations on their university transcript.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

September 2023-Present

- I prepare and instruct tutorials, grade student work, liaise with students, and collaborate with professors on course content.
- Geography & Planning courses: ENV395 (Environmental Assessment, Fall 2023, Fall 2024), GGR210 (Social Geographies, Winter 2025), ENV311 (Environmental Issues in the Developing World, Winter 2024), ENV201 (Environmental Monitoring, Fall 2023)
- School of Environment courses: ENV350 (Energy Policy and Environment, Fall 2025)

Trent University, Peterborough, ON

Graduate Teaching Assistant

September 2020-May 2022

- Assisted and collaborated with professors on course content development, facilitating seminars, and liaising with undergraduate students. Additionally, I worked with professors to develop assignments and tests, and to grade.

- School of Environment courses: Animals and Society (ERST-PHIL-SAFS3302; Winter 2022) and Environmental Science and Sustainability (ERSC1010H; Fall 2021).
- School of Education courses: Conceptions and Dispositions in Teaching and Learning (EDUC2020; Winter 2021) and Learning Style and Literacy (EDUC3010; Fall 2020).

Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

September 2016-May 2018

- Assisted professors in the laboratory by answering student questions, explaining concepts, and demonstrating laboratory techniques. Additionally, I was responsible for grading assignments and tests.
- Biology department courses: Cellular Biology (BIOL1501; Winter 2017, Winter 2018) and Introduction to Ecology (BIOL2101; Fall 2017).
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SELECTED EMPLOYMENT

University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

Research Assistant

September 2023-Present

- Assist Principal Investigator (PI) and co-PI in various research tasks, including data collection, analysis, and writing manuscripts.
- Current projects: Biodiversity Conservation on Working Landscapes (PI: Andrea Olive, Co-PI: Raphael Ayambire, Jeremy Pittman); Looking for Faith-Based Environmentalism (PI: Tanhum Yoreh, Co-PI: Andrea Olive); Exploring Generative AI's Impact on Multilingual Learners at UTM (PI: Michael DeBraga)

Research Fellow

April 2024-January 2025

- Supported Principal Investigator (PI) in research design, analysis, and writing.
- Project title: Commoning for Care and Climate Justice in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) (PI: Praneeta Mudaliar)

Trent University, Peterborough, ON

Research Assistant

October 2023-Present

- Assist Principal Investigator (PI) in various research tasks, including data collection, analysis, and writing manuscripts.
- Current project: Community-Based Solutions for the Housing and Homelessness Crisis. (PI: Naomi Nichols)

Freelance

Contracted Research Consultant

January 2022-Present

- Fee-for-service research, analysis, and development for non-profit organizations and academic institutions.
- Recently contracted by: Corvus Centre for Conservation Policy (October 2024-June 2025), Haliburton Highland Land Trust (January-June 2022).

Peterborough Drug Strategy, Peterborough, ON

Project Lead (Research and Analysis)

September 2022-August 2023

- Led research on housing rights, policy, and municipal responses to homelessness in Ontario.
- Evaluated the Mobile Support Overdose Response Team (MSORT) program.
- Supported the Lived Experience Advisory Panel through administration and evaluation.
- Contributed to grant writing, research, and collaborative projects.

The Land Between, Haliburton, ON

Engagement Strategist

May 2021-September 2021

- Advised the non-profit organization on engagement with community members, municipalities, and businesses using a research-informed approach.
- Created and administered surveys, produced reports, and consulted the organization on how their operations could have a role in community development.

PUBLICATIONS (REFEREED & NON-REFEREED)

- Dart, L., Martin, M. A., Nichols, N. (2026). "Using community values and evidence to respond to homelessness together: A case for methodological flexibility." *Evidence & Policy*.
- Yoreh, T., Olive, A., Lazarovic, M. L., Dart, L. (2025). "Environmental (in)Action and Catholic Church Engagement in Toronto, ON" [Manuscript in review].
- Dart, L. (Guest). (2025, August 5). *Lilian Dart on tick safety, education, and the prevention of Lyme disease*. In Looking for Lyme [Audio podcast episode].
<https://www.lookingatlyme.ca/2025/08/lilian-dart-tick-safety-education-prevention/>
- Mudliar, P., Dart, L., Eyelli Philipp Gutierrez, D., Mankairos, C. (2025). The Power of Care for Climate Justice. *The Nature of Cities*. <https://www.thenatureofcities.com/TNOC/2025/01/07/the-power-of-care-for-climate-justice/>
- Dart, L., Martin, M. A., Nichols, N. (2024). Cross-Sectoral Roadmap for Change: Addressing Homelessness in Peterborough/Nogojiwanong. Research for Social Change Lab.
- Dart, L. (2023). From Onus to Action in the Housing and Homelessness Crisis: Exploring Government Responsibilities and Innovative Approaches by Mid-Sized Ontario Cities. Peterborough Drug Strategy.
- Dart, L. (2023, June 13). Wildfire smoke intensifies young people's climate dread. *Peterborough Currents*. <https://peterboroughcurrents.ca/environment/wildfire-smoke-intensifies-young-peoples-climate-dread/>
- Dart, L. (2022). Community and conservation: contemporary constructions of land protection among volunteers involved in a local land trust [Master's Thesis]. Trent University

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE, PRESENTATIONS, CONTRIBUTIONS

- "Working Together for Biodiversity: A Review of Collaborative Conservation in Canada." Prairies Conservation and Endangered Species Conference (PCESC), Saskatoon, Canada, May 5-7, 2026.
- "The Power of Care in Youth-based Commoning for Climate Justice." Workshop on Ostrom Workshop 7 (WOW7) - Commons, Polycentricity, & Democracy: Building upon 50 years of Ostrom Governance Research, 2024.
- "Community-based Action Planning for Housing and Homelessness Solutions." Peterborough Community Symposium on Housing and Homelessness, Peterborough, Canada, 2024.
- "Citizen Science and Experiential Learning: Tick Education for New Brunswick Provincial Curriculum." Maritime Tick and Tick-Vectored Disease Research Conference, Sackville, Canada, April 28, 2018.
- "Place-based Education for Sustainability: Theory into Practice in Sackville, N.B." Atlantic Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers, Halifax, Canada, October 31, 2017.

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITIONS

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| Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) – University of Toronto | 2025, 2026 |
| Value: \$15,000. A prestigious merit-based scholarship that considers current research, academic history and contributions, and interpersonal and leadership abilities. | |
| University of Toronto Fellowship | 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 |
| Value: \$19,000. Awarded to graduate students with excellent academic standing. | |
| Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) - Trent University | 2021 |
| Value: \$15,000. A prestigious merit-based scholarship that considers current research, academic history and contributions, and interpersonal and leadership abilities. | |
| BMO Financial Green Leaders Scholarship | 2020 |
| Value: \$3000. An entrance scholarship awarded to an individual who has a strong academic history and promise of leadership in future academic and professional endeavours. | |
| Gil Latter Memorial Award | 2018 |

Value: \$2000. An award given to a graduating student of Mount Allison University who volunteered their time, demonstrating an outstanding contribution to the university and greater Sackville, N.B. community.

Fensom Research Prize 2018

Value: \$500. Awarded to Biology students with high quality research who gave outstanding public presentations of their honours work.

Marjorie Young Bell Health Practitioner Internship 2017

Value: \$10,000. A competitive award to fund a community health internship of the recipient's choosing. The internship aimed to provide experiential learning for an upper-year undergraduate student.

Leadership in Community Service-Learning Grant 2017

Value: \$1000. A grant intended to support faculty or students who wish to develop and engage in service-learning projects that benefit the community while offering learning opportunities for students.

Mount Allison University President's Scholarship 2014

Value: \$5000. A merit-based entrance scholarship that is given to an entering first-year student who had outstanding academic achievements and extracurricular involvement in secondary school.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

Mentor, Graduate Geography & Planning Society Mentor Program September 2025-Present

School of Environment Graduate Affairs Committee September 2025-present

Graduate Geography & Planning Graduate Chair Advisory Committee January 2025- March 2025

Graduate Co-Organizer, Department of Geography, Geomatics, and Environment Graduate Student Presentations September 2024-April 2025

Grader, Master of Science in Sustainability Management Final Poster Day April 2025

SELECTED VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Special Olympics Swimming, Peterborough, ON October 2022-July 2023

An international organized sports initiative for children and adults who have disabilities. I volunteer as a lane coach, organizing swimming drills, tracking swimming data, and providing encouragement for swimmers.

COP26 Coalition Cardiff, Cardiff, U.K. October 2021-November 2021

A chapter of the COP26 coalition focused on local advocacy around COP26. I was responsible for preparing press releases for the organization in the lead up to COP26.

Mayor's Advisory Council on Age-Friendly Sackville, Sackville, N.B. May 2017-August 2018

A task force made up of Sackville, N.B. community members with expertise in age-friendly community development. The goal of the group was to receive age-friendly accreditation and to promote accessibility for seniors in Sackville in conjunction with the mayor and town council. I prepared a 'walkability' assessment of the downtown for the Age-Friendly Sackville proposal.

Dorchester Federal Penitentiary, Dorchester, N.B. September 2016-June 2018

Volunteered in the Shepody Healing Centre, a maximum-security facility that serves male offenders with serious mental health conditions. Attended weekly to provide safe and accessible programming for inmates and patients in collaboration with a social worker.

Mangrove Rivulus Lab Research Assistant, Sackville, N.B. September 2016-May 2017

Responsible for animal care for a colony of fish (*Kryptolebias marmoratus*) and supporting researchers in conducting experiments in a research lab at Mount Allison University.