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Objective

To apply my analytic, research, and communication skills to national and international issues involving the environment, race and human rights issues, in order to contribute to the formulation and analysis of public policy.

Academic History

- 2005 Ph.D. in Law. Osgoode Hall Law School
- Thesis Title: "Ecoviolence and the Law: Supranational Normative Foundations of Ecocrime".
 - Supervisor: Prof. Craig Scott.
 - Areas of Specialization: International Human Rights, International Environmental Law.
- 1983 University of Toronto, Ph.D. (Philosophy)
- Thesis Title: Truth and Existence in Thomas Aquinas
 - Areas of Specialization: Ethics, Philosophy of the Environment, Bioethics, Business Ethics, Philosophy of Technology, Ancient and Hellenistic Philosophy, Social Philosophy, Critical Thinking
- 1978 University of Toronto, Master of Arts (Philosophy)
- 1977 York University, Toronto, Honours Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy)

Consulting/Work Experience

- Writer / Researcher for the Walpole Island First Nation (Chief Dean Jacobs) and Ms. Kate Kempton (Olthuis, Kleer and Townshend, 229 College St., Toronto, Ont.), a position paper, "Emission Trading and Environmental Credits under International and Domestic Law ". 2005-May 2006.
- May 30 - June 28, 2005 Researcher/Volunteer at the WHO/INT, Geneva, Switzerland, for Children and Adolescents Health, with Dr. Marcus Stahlhofer. To prepare a desk review of Public Health Law in the Context of Child Health in Selected Countries (South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Cambodia and Bolivia); to provide research basis for a possible development of model legislation for child health and survival.
- Participated in IUCN-CEL ESG meetings with co-chairs Klaus Bosselman and Brendan Mackie (June 27 – July 1, 2003), Urbino, Italy.
- Member of the Ethics Specialist Group of the Commission of Environmental Law of the World Conservation Union (IUCN).
- Invited to Participate in the meeting "The Earth Charter in Action" Urbino Consultation, June 16-19, 2002, Urbino, Italy.
- Invited to Participate at the Rockefeller Pocantico Centre, NY, April 5-7, 2002 to discuss policy implications of the Earth Charter, and its status as a Global Ethic.
- NSRC and SSHRC Grant Review, 2001
- Appointed to Participate in the "Earth Charter Education Online Forum" University for Peace, San Jose, Costa Rica, October 1-15, 2001.
- At the request of David Sullivan, Esq. (Birmingham, AL) I prepared a case study of legal problems encountered by the residents of Titusville, AL in their action against BFI. My formulation of the reasons why this was not just a simple zoning dispute, but a blatant case of environmental racism, was used by Sullivan and Williams to overturn the previous decision by the Supreme Court of Alabama, and admit the case had been argued for the "public good" (Westra, 2001) and therefore the attorneys for the plaintiffs were awarded \$2.3 million dollars in fees.
- 1999 NATO, Principal Investigator, Advanced Scientific Research Workshop.

- In December 1998 the WHO convened a meeting of the “Global Ecological Integrity Project” at their Rome office. After several days of interaction between our scientists and ethicists and their own, in 1999 a document was produced, “Ecological Integrity and Sustainable Development: Cornerstones of Public Health” (<http://www.whoit>).
- 1992—1999 SSHRC Principal Investigator: organized focus groups and panels, convened meetings of international scholars in university settings, World Bank and other international conference venues, administered funds and facilitated research into publications.
- 1996 Consultant to the Ontario Government, The Ontario Women’s Directorate: Pay Equity (Green Paper, November 1985) A Comparative Study of Professional Guidelines and Codes of Ethics
- 1993 Consultant to the Canadian Consulate General (Detroit, Michigan): Environment Services Resource Guide with Madelyn Webb of Webb Associates
- 1998—2001 President, Westra Accounting Limited

Academic and Teaching Experience

- 1999-2000 Professor, Endowed Chair of Environmental Studies, Head of Public Policy, Sarah Lawrence College
- Public Policy Development, Environmental Ethics; institutionalized Violence and Environmental Racism; Health Care and Global Ethics.
- 1990-99 Professor, University of Windsor
- Environmental Ethics; Technology; Human Values; Bioethics; Political Philosophy; Institutional Violence
- 1983-90 Many teaching jobs at American and Canadian universities.

Books

- Reconciling Human Existence with Ecological Integrity (15th Anniversary Collection of the Global Ecological Integrity Group), Earthscan, July 2008, Laura Westra, Klaus Bosselmann and Richard Westra, Editors.
- Environmental Justice and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - International and Domestic Law Perspectives, Earthscan Publishers, London, UK, 2007
- Sustaining Life On Earth: Environmental and Human Health Through Global Governance, 2007. Editor in Chief: Colin L. Soskolne, Co-Editors: Laura Westra, Louis J. Kotzé; Brendan Mackey; William E. Rees; and Richard Westra, Lexington Books, Maryland, USA
- Environmental Justice And The Rights Of Unborn And Future Generations - Law, Environmental Harm And The Right To Health, 2006, Earthscan Publications, UK.
- Ecoviolence & The Law (Supranational Normative Foundations of Ecocrime), 2004, Transnational Publishers, Inc., Ardsley, N.Y.
- Thinking About the Environment: Our Debt to the Classical and Medieval Past, 2002; Laura Westra and Thomas Robinson eds., Lexington Books, Lanham, MD.
- Just Ecological Integrity: The Ethics of Maintaining Planetary Life, 2002, eds. Peter Miller, and Laura Westra, Rowman Littlefield Publishers Inc., Lanham, MD.
- Faces of Environmental Racism: Confronting Issues of Global Justice, 2001 2nd ed. Eds., Laura Westra and Bill Lawson, Rowman Littlefield Publishers Inc., Lanham, MD.
- Implementing Ecological Integrity: Restoring Regional and global Environmental and Human Health, L. Westra, Philippe Crabbe, Alan Holland and L. Ryczkowski, Eds. NATO Scientific Publications, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, The Netherlands 2000.
- Ecological Integrity: Integrating Environment, Conservation and Health. Island Press, Washington. D.C., 2000. The Business of Consumption: Environmental Ethics and the Global Economy, L. Westra and P. Werhane, eds. Rowman Littlefield Publishers Inc., Lanham. MD., 1998.

- Living in Integrity: Toward a Global Ethic to Restore a Fragmented Earth, Rowman Littlefield, Lanham, MD, 1998.
- Ecological Sustainability and Integrity: Concepts and Approaches, J. Lemons, L. Westra & Robert Goodland, eds. Kluwer Academic Publishers Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 1997.
- Technology and Values, a collection of readings; eds. Kristin Shrader-Frechette and Laura Westra; with introduction to Ethics by Louis Pojman. Rowman Littlefield Publishers Inc., Lanham, MD, 1997.
- Perspectives on Ecological Integrity, a collection of papers, one of which by L. Westra, plus introduction. Eds. Dr. John Lemons (Professor of Biology and Environmental Sciences), Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 1995 (Product of SSHRC Grant, "The Integrity Project").
- Faces of Environmental Racism: Confronting Issues of Global Justice, Rowman Littlefield Publishers, Inc., Series on Social and Political Philosophy, editor, J. Sterba; a collection of essays, edited with introduction by Laura Westra; editor Peter Wenz, 1995.
- The Principle of Integrity — An Environmental Proposal for Ethics, Rowman Littlefield Publishers Inc., Lanham, MD, 1994.
- Two books (1990 and 1999) on Ancient Philosophy

Published Papers

- Over 83 published papers: Ethics, Environment, Public Policy, Biotechnology, Sustainable Agriculture, Public Health, Human Rights

Professional Association

- Appointed Member of IUCN, Ethics Specialist Group, Commission of Environmental Law.
- Appointed as Senior Associate at the York Centre for Applied Sustainability (for a term to expire June 30, 2004), York University, Toronto, ON.

- Senior Visiting Scholar for the Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, Toronto, ON.
- Member of numerous Editorial Boards including: Journal of Ecosystem Health, Environmental Ethics, Business Ethics Quarterly, Environmental Values, Global Bioethics

Grants Received

- 2004-06 Health Canada: Health Policy Research Program. Governance Instruments and Child Health: Informing Canadian Policy. Spady DW, Soskolne CL, Buka I, Ries N, Nemer L, Bertollini R and Osornio-Vargas AR, Laura Westra Legal Consultant. (August 1, 2004 January 31, 2006).
- 2004-06 SSHRC Thematic Grant, "Controlling Ecoviolence: Linking Consumption and the Loss of Ecological Integrity to Population Health, Ecojustice and International Law", PI William Rees, Co-PI Colin Soskolne and Laura Westra. Collaborator; Post-Doctoral Fellow.
- 2001-04 Doctoral Fellowship (\$17,750.00) to pursue a Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree at Osgoode Hall Law School.
- 1999 NATO Advanced Research Workshop, Budapest, Hungary (\$25,000) implementing Ecological Integrity: Restoring Regional and Global Environmental and Human Health" Co-Director Dr. L. Ryszkowski, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznan, Poland.
- 1996-99 SSHRC Grant (\$115,500.00) "Global Ecological Integrity: The Relations Between the Wild, Health, Sustainability and Ethics"
- 1992-95 SSHRC Thematic Grant (\$94,220) "Ecological Integrity"

Languages

- English
- French
- Italian (mother tongue)
- Greek

- Latin