



## **JAMES D. LANGSTON**

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### **PERSONAL DETAILS**

#### **Biography**

I am interested in the interconnected issues that shape livelihoods and the environment. Early in life, my passion for nature and adventure motivated my education in the environmental sciences. Undergraduate studies in Tanzania generated my sense of duty to bridge the social and natural sciences to better manage the issues that affect people. After my bachelor's degree I worked for the private sector in the environmental engineering field, honing managerial and leadership skills by managing teams and projects across the southwest of the United States. In 2013 I completed the Master of Development Practice (MDP) Program at James Cook University in Australia. The program aligned with my convictions that immersion and engagement with the actors most involved with the pressing issues of development is indispensable for an effective practitioner. I complete my PhD in 2018, on *The Political Ecology of Spatial Development Initiatives (SDIs)*. Taking an action-research approach and as part of a team of landscape approach practitioners, I explore the implications of industry driven SDIs on livelihoods and environment within a landscape. I explore how to leverage change in landscapes for long-term sustainable development outcomes.

#### **Aspirations**

Broadly, I aim to situate myself at the interface between science and policy, influencing policy and management outcomes to better serve people and their environment. I aim to primarily work where people and their institutions might be the most ill-equipped to achieve better sustainable development outcomes.

### **EDUCATION**

#### **James Cook University, Cairns, QLD, in association with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) February 2015 to present**

Ph.D. *The Political Ecology of Spatial Development Initiatives in Indonesia*

My research should contribute to better understanding of landscape transitions and to improved sustainable development outcomes in selected Indonesian landscapes. I aim to understand the dynamics of places that are undergoing landscape change due to intensified investments and a coordination of development activities. My specific aims are:

- To identify landscape leverage points that lead to broad-based inclusive development
- To contribute to building consensus around theories of change in selected landscapes
- To create communities of commitment and management coalitions to steer the trajectories of development in our study locations
- Improve data collection and milestone reporting for measuring landscape approach effectiveness

#### **James Cook University, Cairns, QLD; November 2011 to December 2013**

Master of Development Practice; GPA: 6.75/7.0

JCU was a unique member of the Global Association for the Master's in Development Practice. The global association was mandated by the United Nations to develop professionals that better identify and

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address the challenges of sustainable developments. The program was multi-disciplinary and had coursework and research components. I honed my managerial and leadership skills, working with a diverse team, linking with specialists and experts in diverse fields, with the aim to better conceptualize development issues. As a student with good footing in theory teamed with prior leadership, I pursued a variety of roles within the program, as both pupil and mentor. I gained advantage from a variety of responsibilities that included tutoring, facilitating and coordinating group activities that built strong relationships and capacities among my colleagues, and acting as an intermediary between professors and students to increase dialogue and comfort for culturally derived hesitance among colleagues.

**Bates College, Lewiston, ME; September 2003 to May 2007**

Bachelor of Science in Biology

Bates laid my multidisciplinary foundations and instilled expectations for higher educational achievements. The institution encouraged study abroad programs that challenged students' comfort levels, which enabled me to pursue experiences in Tanzania that would be formative for me. The progressive teaching and metrics by which they evaluated students instilled looking beyond normal boundaries for approaching, measuring, and framing value and worth in education. I majored in Biology, with a focus on marine and terrestrial Ecology. Among other fields of study, classes in Anthropology and Political Ecology influenced my thinking that there is a need for greater cooperation and coordination between discrete disciplines.

**School for International Training (SIT) Arusha, Tanzania; January 2006 to June 2006**

Diploma: *Wildlife Conservation & Political Ecology*

I spent a semester in various home-stay conditions performing anthropological, sociological, ecological, and political studies. The school put emphasis on personal growth and capacity building. This involved living without the supervision and guidance of the school's physical presence. I lived with a Maasai family in the Lake Natron area. Living off of the land among the semi-nomad Maasai proved valuable in forming my reflexive approaches and adaptive capacity to working and living in different conditions. The course instilled the need for constructivism and multi-stakeholder engagement when dealing with conservation and development initiatives. The experience taught me the need to rectify how power asymmetries influence the outcomes of navigating trade-offs inherent in conservation and development. This formative experience instilled my passion for working toward a sustainably stewarded planet that benefits the people and the environment in which they live.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

**Tanah Air Beta (TAβ): Landscape governance advisor; 2017 to present**

TAβ theory of change and actor network analyst. Provides advice and technical support for the CEPF's "Strengthening Ridge-to-Reef Natural Resource Management in Seram-Buru Corridor" program run by Tanah Air Beta, an Indonesian NGO working to achieve conservation and development using Landscape/Seascape Approaches. I contribute expertise on governance, socio-political organization and actor network analysis in relation to sustainable development in the Boano and Sawai land-seascapes.

**Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR): Consultant; January 2016 to May 2018**

Contributed to CIFOR's research on *Landscape management for environmental services, biodiversity conservation and livelihoods*. Worked in sentinel Indonesian landscapes to identify how governance can better manage trade-offs between conservation and development at the landscape scale. Research includes working with government, private industry, civil society, and with other researchers in a variety of disciplines from a variety of countries.

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**James Cook University, Development Practice Program: Teaching Assistant, Tutor, and Coordinator; July 2014 to June 2017**

Assisted the directors of the Development Practice Program with course pedagogy and design. Provided teaching assistance and tutorial assistance for Masters' students. Tutored and mentored Australian Aid award students and English as a Second Language (ESL) students. Organized and lead workshops on development issues with students, guest staff and current collaborating staff. Lectured for the Development Practice core courses. Provided technical support and planning for field trips.

**Climate and Land Use Alliance: Sub-contracted Researcher; April 2016 to May 2018**

Contributed to a body of research that identifies where global forest governance suffers from 'hierarchical incompetence'. Identified where disconnected management results in poor decision-making systems leading to poor strategies and resource allocation. Helped identify ways to reduce global-local forest disconnects.

**James Cook University: Research Assistant; January 2014 to January 2015**

Performed research on all active and planned mining endeavors, identifying their typologies, locations and site specifics, across Africa. Collated data for contribution to the Development Corridors Across Africa paper as led by Bill Laurance and Jeff Sayer, under the supervision of Post doctorate Fellow Sean Sloan.

**Kooglerand Associates, Inc., Gainesville, FL: Project Manager & Environmental Scientist; March 2008 to August 2011**

Consulted clients regarding air emission compliance issues. Developed intimate knowledge of state and federal rules and regulations with regards to air emissions. Responsible for writing emission test reports submitted to clients and enforcement agencies. Responsible for coordinating with clientele to manage the schedules for test crews. Performed EPA promulgated tests on source emission points. Started as a Technician and finished as an Engineer and Project Manager. Managing groups in the field and from a distance forged my ability to work well in a stressful environment; it is also where I developed management skills that include dealing with diverse sets of stakeholders. The job requirements cemented my proactive work ethic and built my resilience to handling challenging, and sometimes dangerous, work environments. I learned how to keep track of numerous projects occurring simultaneously.

**Bates College: Research Assistant/Lab Technician; January 2007 to June 2007**

Responsible for sorting marine invertebrates and taking core samples from soft-sediment inter-tidal zones to determine impacts of baitworm digging on soft-sediment communities. Contributed to the work of senior thesis students and the Bates College Sea-Grant.

**Other appointments**

**United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN): Campus Coordinator; February 2016 to February 2017**

Regional representative for the UN SDSN. Identified and linked activities related to the 2015 sustainable development goals occurring within or associated with James Cook University, and in the broader Cairns region, to the SDSN to strengthen and map global sustainable development networks.

**James Cook University: Research Assistant, Course Consultant; 2013**

Worked with course directors to examine ways for improving the core Masters of Development Practice (MDP) courses. Helped ensure that Urban Geography and Design articulates better with the MDP.

**PUBLICATIONS**

### **Journal Articles**

Bull, G. Q., Boedhihartono, A. K., Bueno, G., Cashore, B., Elliott, C., **Langston, J. D.**, Riggs, R. A. & Sayer, J. (2018). Global forest discourses must connect with local forest realities. *International Forestry Review*, 20, 160-166(7).

Riggs, R. A, **Langston, J. D.**, & Sayer, J. (accepted). Incorporating governance into forest transition frameworks to understand and influence Cambodia's forest landscapes. *Forest Policy and Economics*.

Riggs, R. A., **Langston, J. D.**, Margules, C., Boedhihartono, A. K., Lim, H. S., Sari, D. A., Sururi, Y. & Sayer, J. (2018). Governance Challenges in an Eastern Indonesian Forest Landscape. *Sustainability*, 10, 169.

**Langston, J.**, Riggs, R., Sururi, Y., Sunderland, T. & Munawir, M. (2017). Estate Crops More Attractive than Community Forests in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. *Land*, 6, 12.

Riggs, R. A., Sayer, J., Margules, C., Boedhihartono, A. K., **Langston, J. D.**, & Sutanto, H. (2016). Forest tenure and conflict in Indonesia: Contested rights in Rempek Village, Lombok. *Land Use Policy*, 57, 241-249.

Sayer, J. A., Margules, C., Boedhihartono, A. K., Sunderland, T., **Langston, J. D.**, Reed, J., Riggs, R., Buck, L. E., Campbell, B. M., Kusters, K., Elliott, C., Minang, P. A., Dale, A., Purnomo, H., Stevenson, J. R., Gunarso, P., and Purnomo, A. (2016). Measuring the effectiveness of landscape approaches to conservation and development. *Sustainability Science*.

**Langston, J. D.**, Lubis, M. I., Sayer, J. A., Margules, C., Boedhihartono, A. K., & Dirks, P. H. (2015). Comparative development benefits from small and large scale mines in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. *The Extractive Industries and Society*, 2(3), 434-444.

Lubis, M. I., & **Langston, J. D.** (2015). Understanding Landscape Change Using Participatory Mapping and Geographic Information Systems: Case Study in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. *Procedia Environmental Sciences*, 24, 206-214.

### **Other Works**

**Langston, J.** (2017). To conserve forests, we need to think beyond current ideas of integration or segregation. *The Conversation* [Online].

**Langston, J.D.**, & Riggs, R.A. (2017). Improving Infrastructure Governance: The Sentinel Landscape Approach. In *State of The Tropics* (2017). Sustainable Infrastructure for the Tropics. James Cook University, Townsville, Australia

**Langston, J.D.** & Riggs, R.A., (2015). *The Development Ontology*. James Cook University, Cairns.

**Langston, J. D.**, & Turton, S. M. (2014). Industry - adaptation pathways and opportunities in the Wet Tropics Cluster. In C. Moran, S. M. Turton, & R. Hill (Eds.), *Adaptation Pathways and Opportunities for the Wet Tropics NRM Cluster Region: volume 2: infrastructure, industry, indigenous peoples, social adaptation, emerging planning frameworks, evolving methodologies and climate adaptation planning in practice* (Vol. 2): James Cook University.

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**Presentations and Convened Workshops**

Universitas Indonesia, FMIPA, Depok, Indonesia, August 2018; Keynote Address at the Basic and Applied Sciences Interdisciplinary Conference: *Sustainability Science for Wicked Problems on Pulau Buano*

University of British Columbia, Faculty of Forestry, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, April 2018; Presentation: *Landscape Transitions in Southeast Asia*

Tanah Air Beta and partners, Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia, December 2017; Workshop: *Influencing the Seram-Buru Land-seascape*.

WCS, Wildlife Conservation Society, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, October 2017; Presentation: *Social-ecological Impacts of Landscape Transitions in Southeast Asia*

Tanah Air Beta and partners, Malinau, Indonesia, September 2017; Learning Landscapes Workshop: *Diagnosing Landscapes: understanding social-ecological systems*

Institute of Foresters Australia, Cairns, Australia, August 2017; Presentation: *Forest partnerships in East Lombok: effective engagement with small landholders in the tropics*

Universitas Pattimura (UNPATTI), Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia, August 2017; Presentation: *Understanding social-ecological systems: useful tools and concepts*

Australian National University: Master of Environment and Development program, June 2017; Guest lecture: *Nurturing Landscape Transitions*

James Cook University, Masters of Natural Resource Management students, May 2017; Guest lecture *Nurturing Landscape Transitions*

James Cook University, JCU Sustainable Development Goals Leadership Workshop, Townsville, Australia, April 2017; presentation: *SDGs and universities: student agency*

Conservation International, headquarters in Washington DC, USA, September 2016; Presentation *Nurturing Landscapes*

IUCN World Conservation Congress, Hawaii, U.S.A, September 2016; Participatory Exhibition: *Visions for Sustainable Development: mural painting*

Universitas Mattaram (UNRAM), Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, August 2016; Workshop: *Landscape Sustainability: influencing change in east Rinjani*

Centre for Tropical Sustainability Science, James Cook University, Atherton Tablelands, Australia, June 2015; Workshop: *Assessing the impact of landscape-scale conservation and development initiatives: measuring effectiveness*

IUCN World Parks Congress, Sydney, Australia, November 2014; Participatory Exhibition: *Ridge to Reef: mural painting*

ATBC, Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Cairns, Australia, July 2014; Presentation: *Wallacea: on the cusp*

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Global Master of Development Practice Summit, Cairns, Australia, July 2014; Panel Discussion: *Student experiences with development practice*

Universitas Negeri Manado (UNIMA), Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, August 2013; Workshop and Presentations: *Sustainable Development in North Sulawesi: a landscape approach AND Mining as a Driver of Change: livelihoods and landscapes in North Sulawesi*

## **GRANT AWARDS**

### **JCU Higher Degree Research Enhancement Scheme**

In 2017, awarded \$1,800 from JCU's Graduate Research Scheme Funding competitive funding round. This is to contribute to enhancing my research at JCU.

### **Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF)**

In 2017, I contributed to a grant proposal for Tanah Air Beta, an Indonesian based NGO, which attained USD150,000 for conservation efforts directed at the Seram-Buru corridor, a global biodiversity hotspot.

### **Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA)**

In 2016, awarded US\$5,000 grant from CLUA to begin contributing to a body of research on the failures of forest governance, globally.

### **JCU Higher Degree Research Enhancement Scheme**

In 2016, awarded \$1,500 from JCU's Graduate Research Scheme Funding competitive funding round. This is to contribute to enhancing my research at JCU.

### **JCU Learning and Teaching Grants**

In 2015, awarded a \$2,000 quick start grant for the development of an e-book that contributes to enhanced pedagogy in the Development Practice Programme.

### **Australia Postgraduate Award**

In 2015, awarded an Australian Postgraduate Award. The scholarship provides a stipend payment of approximately \$25,849 per annum.

## **RELEVANT COURSEWORK**

Contemporary Issues in Development Practice, Tropical Landscapes and Livelihoods, Climate Change: The Science, Impacts and Solutions, Economic Growth and Regional Development, Governance, Democratization and the State, Agroforestry, Conflict and Dispute Analysis, International Health Agencies and Development, GIS, Asian Pacific Development, Urban Geography and Design Political Ecology, Comparative Environmental Politics and Policy, Biostatistics, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Seminar, Environmental Field Study Seminar, Marine Ecology, Evolutionary Biology

## **COMMUNICATION/COMPUTERS SKILLS**

Previous studies in Indonesian, Swahili, and German. Proficient with Microsoft Office, network analysis software, systems modeling software, and statistical programs. Able to perform well under pressure and a competent team leader equipped with good public speaking skills.

## **PERSONAL SKILLS/INTEREST**

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As of 2016, I reached communicable fluency in Indonesian. I enjoy music performance, specifically saxophone and piano. Outdoor activities including skiing, hiking, and biking.

## REFEREES

Dr. Jeff Sayer  
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**References available**