

# **Towards sustainable communities a permaculture-based practice model for ecosocial work**

An Abstract of the Thesis by  
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The global socio-ecological crisis, in its diverse and complex manifestations, poses fundamental questions to the Profession of Social Work. The Profession is challenged to re-assess the traditional assumptions of the human-nature relationship at the core of its self-perception and develop an independent, “bottom-up” and transformative understanding of “sustainable” livelihoods and communities.

The Design Framework of the Permaculture Movement could offer a holistic thinking tool to guide ecosocial work practice that is committed to a relational worldview, principles of environmental and ecological justice and a holistic understanding of human well-being.

While this thesis is developing a practice model by integrating core principles of both ecosocial work and permaculture, it remains to be tested in the field for its functionality and appropriateness.