

Jesse Patrick Harrison, PhD

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QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

- Senior Data Scientist / Project Manager with diverse experience in biodiversity, environmental and life science research
- Proficient in data analysis (e.g. R, bioinformatics), scientific computing and coordinating international research projects
- Combined experience of client-facing, technical and advisory roles, with proven problem-solving and interpersonal skills

EMPLOYMENT

CSC - IT Center for Science Ltd

Project Manager, Senior Data Scientist (2022 -)

Data Scientist (2019 - 2022)

2019 - Present

Espoo, Finland

Research Project Management and Collaborations

- Project Manager, [Horizon Europe Biodiversity Digital Twin](#) (funding: €11M)
- Work Package Lead, [Horizon 2020 HPC/Exascale Centre of Excellence in Personalised Medicine](#) (funding: €5M)
- Collaborator, Horizon Europe DTO-BioFlow (integration of biodiversity data into the [Digital Twin Ocean](#)) (funding: €10M)
- Method development and data analysis support, [ERC LIFEPLAN \(Planetary Inventory of Life\)](#) (funding: €12M)

Technical Competence

- [R container](#) design and maintenance on CSC computing environments, including GIS software installations and user support
- Developed data analysis tools for the [Chipster platform](#), including [tools for assessing microbial community diversity](#)
- Experienced in bash scripting, parallel computing, multivariate statistics and reproducible coding

Teaching Experience

- Lead instructor on R courses (e.g. [Data Analysis with R](#))
- Co-instructor, [Puhti RStudio Workshop](#) and [Microbial Community Analysis with Chipster](#)

Postdoctoral Researcher

Turku Bioscience (2018 - 2019)

University of Helsinki (2017 - 2018)

University of Vienna (2015 - 2017)

The University of Edinburgh (2012 - 2015)

2012 - 2019

Turku, Finland

Helsinki, Finland

Vienna, Austria

Edinburgh, UK

- Track record in cross-disciplinary research (biogeochemistry, microbial ecology, analytical chemistry and astrobiology)
- Topics including plastic pollution, eDNA-based ecosystem monitoring and bioinformatics as part of [NASA BASALT](#)
- Supervisor of six Masters projects and laboratory course instructor ([International FISH Course, University of Vienna](#))
- Contributed to developing a [Massive Open Online Course \(MOOC\) in astrobiology](#) with 80K registrations to date

UK Department for Environment, Food and

Rural Affairs

Technical Advisory Group Member

2014- 2015

London, UK

- Invited member of expert panel providing advice on plastic biodegradability in the environment
- Contributed to a [summary report presented to the UK Parliament](#), lead author of [accompanying publication](#)

SKILLS

- **Data Analysis:** Data wrangling and visualisation, multivariate statistics and machine learning, high-performance computing, sequencing data analysis, preparing technical reports and policy documents, code development, version control
- **Strategic and Interpersonal Skills:** Project design and procurement, experimental design, steering and management, cross-disciplinary teamwork, project supervision
- **Laboratory Methods:** PCR, NGS, FISH, FT-IR and Raman microspectroscopy, SEM, microbial culturing

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ACADEMIC TITLES

University of Helsinki (2023, pending) Docent / Assoc. Prof. in Environmental Sciences	Helsinki, Finland
Athena Research Center (2019) Data Carpentry Instructor	Athens, Greece
The University of Sheffield PhD (2012) Molecular Environmental Microbiology and Infrared Microspectroscopy MBiolSci, 1st Class Hons (2008) Biology with Conservation and Biodiversity	Sheffield, UK

COMMITTEES AND PANELS

2021 - Present:

- [Finnish Open Research Methods Policy Working Group](#)

2015 - Present:

- Grant Reviewer ([French National Research Agency](#) and [Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology](#))
- [Frontiers Review Editor](#) (Microbial Biotechnology / Extreme Microbiology)

2013 - 2016:

- PhD Project Steering Committee, [Swansea University](#) / [Fera Science Ltd](#), UK)

2015:

- [European Commission AstRoMap European Astrobiology Roadmap Panel](#)

2014:

- Conference Organising Committee, [European Astrobiology Network Association](#)

PUBLICATIONS

- **Citations** (Google Scholar): >2750
- **H index** of 15 and **i10 index** of 18

Publications in Refereed Journals

23. Tagg AS, Sperlea T, Labrenz M, **Harrison JP**, Ojeda JJ, Sapp M. 2022. Year-long microbial succession on microplastics in wastewater: chaotic dynamics outweigh preferential growth. *Microorganisms* 10: 1775. [Link](#)
22. **Harrison JP**, Chronopoulou M, Salonen I, Jilbert T, Koho K. 2021. 16S and 18S rRNA gene metabarcoding provide congruent information on the responses of sediment communities to eutrophication. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 8: 862. [Link](#)
21. Pinto M, Polania Zenner P, Langer TM, **Harrison JP**, Simon M, Varela MM, Herndl GJ. 2020. Putative degraders of low-density polyethylene-derived compounds are ubiquitous members of plastic-associated bacterial communities in the marine environment. *Environmental Microbiology* 22: 4779-4793. [Link](#)
20. Tagg AS, Sapp M, **Harrison JP**, Sinclair CJ, Bradley E, Ju-Nam Y, Ojeda, JJ. 2020. Microplastic monitoring at different stages in a wastewater treatment plant using reflectance micro-FTIR imaging. *Frontiers in Environmental Science* 8: 145. [Link](#)
19. Cockell CS, McMahon S, Lim DSS, Rummel J, Stevens A, Hughes SS, Kobs Nawotniak SE, Brady AL, Marteinsson V, Martin-Torres J, Zorzano M-P, **Harrison JP**. 2019. Sample collection and return from Mars: Optimising sample collection based on the microbial ecology of terrestrial volcanic environments. *Space Science Reviews* 215: 1-25. [Link](#)
18. Cockell CS, **Harrison JP**, Stevens AH, Payler SJ, Hughes SS *et al.* 2019. A low-diversity microbiota inhabits extreme terrestrial basaltic terrains and their fumaroles: implications for the exploration of Mars. *Astrobiology* 19: 284-299. [Link](#)
17. **Harrison JP**, Boardman C, O'Callaghan K, Delort A-M, Song J. 2018. Biodegradability standards for carrier bags and plastic films in aquatic environments: a critical review. *Royal Society Open Science* 5: 171792. [Link](#)
16. Cockell CS, Biller B, Bryce C, Cousins C, Direito S, Forgan D, Fox-Powell M, **Harrison JP et al.** 2018. The UK Centre for Astrobiology: a virtual astrobiology centre. Accomplishments and lessons learned, 2011-2016. *Astrobiology* 18: 224-243. [Link](#)

15. **Harrison JP**, Berry D. 2017. Vibrational spectroscopy for imaging single microbial cells in complex biological samples. *Frontiers in Microbiology* 8: 675. [Link](#)
14. **Harrison JP**, Angel R, Cockell CS. 2017. Astrobiology as a framework for investigating antibiotic susceptibility: a study of *Halomonas hydrothermalis*. *Journal of The Royal Society Interface* 14: 20160942. [Link](#)
13. Tagg AS, **Harrison JP**, Ju-Nam Y, Sapp M, Bradley EL, Sinclair CJ, Ojeda JJ. 2017. Fenton's reagent for the rapid and efficient isolation of microplastics from wastewater. *Chemical Communications* 53: 372-375. [Link](#)
12. Bryce CC, Le Bihan T, Martin SF, **Harrison JP**, Bush T, Spears B, Moore A, Leys N, Byloos B, Cockell CS. 2016. Rock geochemistry induces stress and starvation responses in the bacterial proteome. *Environmental Microbiology* 18: 1110–1121. [Link](#)
11. Freeman K, **Harrison JP**, Dobinson L, Cockell CS, McKenzie R, Wyllie D, Nixon SL. 2016. Mapping limits to life on Earth. *Astronomy & Geophysics* 57: 2.15-2.17. [Link](#)
10. **Harrison JP**, Aggarwal SD, Cockell CS. 2016. Salinity influences the response of *Halomonas hydrothermalis* to artificial fossilization by evaporative silicification. *Geomicrobiology Journal* 33: 377–386. [Link](#)
9. Horneck G, Walter N, Westall F, Grenfell JL, Martin WF, Gomez F, Leuko S, Lee N, Onofri S, Kleomenis T, Raffaele S, Pilat-Lohinger E, Ernesto P, **Harrison JP et al.** 2016. AstRoMap European Astrobiology Roadmap. *Astrobiology* 16: 201-243. [Link](#)
8. Cockell CS, Bush T, Bryce CC, Direito S, Fox-Powell M, **Harrison JP**, Lammer H, Landenmark H, Martin-Torres J, Nicholson N, Noack L, O'Malley-James J, Payler SJ, Rushby A, Samuels T, Schwendner P, Zorzano MP. 2016. Habitability: a review. *Astrobiology* 16: 89–117. [Link](#)
7. **Harrison JP**, Dobinson L, Freeman K, McKenzie R, Wyllie D, Nixon SL, Cockell CS. 2015. Aerobically respiring prokaryotic strains exhibit a broader temperature–pH–salinity space for cell division than anaerobically respiring and fermentative strains. *Journal of the Royal Society Interface* 12: 20150658. [Link](#)
6. Tagg AS, Sapp M, **Harrison JP**, Ojeda JJ. 2015. Identification and quantification of microplastics in wastewater using FPA-based reflectance micro-FT-IR imaging. *Analytical Chemistry* 87: 6032–6040. [Link](#)
5. **Harrison JP**, Hallsworth JE, Cockell CS. 2015. Reduction of the temperature sensitivity of *Halomonas hydrothermalis* by iron starvation combined with microaerobic conditions. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* 81: 2156–2162. [Link](#)
4. **Harrison JP**, Schratzberger M, Sapp M, Osborn AM. 2014. Rapid bacterial colonization of low-density polyethylene microplastics in coastal sediment microcosms. *BMC Microbiology* 14: 232. [Link](#)
3. **Harrison JP**, Gheeraert N, Tsigelnitskiy D, Cockell CS. 2013. The limits for life under multiple extremes. *Trends in Microbiology* 21: 204–212. [Link](#)
2. **Harrison JP**, Ojeda JJ, Romero-González ME. 2012. The applicability of reflectance micro-Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy for the detection of synthetic microplastics in marine sediments. *Science of the Total Environment* 416: 455–463. [Link](#)
1. **Harrison JP**, Sapp M, Schratzberger M, Osborn AM. 2011. Interactions between microorganisms and marine microplastics: a call for research. *Marine Technology Society Journal* 45: 12–20. **Invited paper.** [Link](#)

Book Chapters and Technical Reports

2. **Harrison JP**, Hoellein TJ, Sapp M, Tagg AS, Ju-Nam Y, Ojeda JJ. 2018. Microplastic-associated biofilms: a comparison of freshwater and marine environments. In: *Freshwater Microplastics* (Wagner M, Lambert S, eds). *The Handbook of Environmental Chemistry* 58, pp. 181–201. Springer. **Invited book chapter.** [Link](#)
1. O'Callaghan K, Boardman C, Murphy R, **Harrison JP**, Kosior E, Song J, Delort A-M. 2015. Review of standards for biodegradable plastic bags. *Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs*. **Technical Advisory Group report presented to UK Parliament.** [Link](#)