

MARGARET J.A. KNICKLE

Professional Summary

Experienced educator and current PhD Candidate at Mount Saint Vincent University in Educational Studies. A qualified and creative teacher who has worked with many different types of students from a variety of backgrounds. Significant experience in research and advocacy roles, driven by a passion to make constructive change in the community while honouring non-Eurocentric views.

Areas of Interest

- Social Justice
- Diversity & Education
- Special Needs Education
- Experiential Learning
- Cultural Sensitivity & Inclusion
- Non-Eurocentric Epistemologies & Ontology
- Canine Companionship & Aging
- Lifestyle and Yoga
- Community Outreach
- Dog Obedience & Behaviour

Education

Inter-University PhD Candidate in Education Studies

Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS

June 2017–Present

Masters in Graduate Studies in Lifelong Learning

Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS

September 2014 – 2017

Masters in Special Education

Fitchburg State University, Fitchburg MA, USA

September 2005 – May 2006

Bachelor Early Childhood Education/Special Education

Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS

September 1977 – May 1982

Teaching Experience

RESOURCE CENTRE & SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

Halifax Regional School Board, HRM, NS

September 2011 – June 2017

- Resource Centre Teach at Herring Cove Junior High School: 2016-2017.
- Learning Centre Teacher at Cunard Junior High School: 2015-2016.
- Learning Centre Teacher at Sir Robert Borden Junior High School: 2014-2015.
- Substitute teacher in a numerous subjects: 2011-2015.

MENTAL HEALTH TEACHER

IWK Halifax, NS

January 2009 – June 2011

- Taught within the Adult Centre for Treatment and Compass Program. The Compass Program is a 24/5 service for young boys and girls under the age of 13, that helps children who have difficulties with behaviour. The Adolescent Centre for Treatment is a service that treats youth, ages 13 to 19, with anxiety, depression, attention deficit disorder or oppositional defiance disorder.

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER*September 2006 – June 2009***Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School, Lowell, Massachusetts**

- Worked as High School Biology and Special Education Teacher in a public high school setting that targets at-risk adolescents who have officially dropped out of high school or who are seriously at risk of doing so.

SPECIAL EDUCATION & SUBSTITUTE TEACHER*September 2003 – August 2005***Harvard Public School System, Harvard, Massachusetts**

- Worked as a special educational and substitute teacher for elementary and high school students ages 11-18.

PRESCHOOL TEACHER*September 1999 – July 2004***The Village Nursery Preschool, Harvard, Massachusetts**

- Taught pre-school classes in a private nursery school setting for children ages 3-4.

DOG OBEDIENCE TRAINER*January 1999 – December 2006***Especially for Pets, Westborough, Massachusetts**

- Instructed dog obedience classes including basic obedience and specific behaviour classes. Also, taught and evaluated the Canine Good Citizen Behaviour Course.

Writing & Publications

CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR*August 2020 – Present***The Nova Scotia Advocate, Halifax, NS**

- Regular contributor the online newspaper the Nova Scotia Advocate, with a focus on privileging non-Eurocentric viewpoints, and promoting advocacy, diversity, and inclusion in Nova Scotia.

CO-AUTHOR*June 2015***Nova Scotia Teachers Union Digital Content**

- Co-authored and published the article "Nourishing the learning spirit. Bringing indigenous knowledge into our schools' with Andras Kocsis.

Teaching & Research Assistantships

RESEARCH ASSISTANT*December 2019 – December 2020***Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS**

- Research Assistant for Leslie Obol and Amy Thurlow conducting research as a response to Federal government initiatives to indigenize and decolonize public relations curriculum in Canada. The research was conducted for the Communications Department of the University, to assess and integrate into their coursework and policies.
- This included research in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #86 which asks Canadian journalism programs and media schools to begin education for all students on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools; in addition to research in response to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations

RESEARCH ASSITANT*June 2019 – February 2020***Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS**

- Research Assistant for Dr. Ardra Cole for the year-long research project "Caring Canines Along a Continuum of Care." This project built on existing research completed in 2016-2017. Using an arts-based research approach the goal of the project was to holistically examine study the benefit of having canines in senior care facilities and practical barriers to doing so. Over the course of 1-year interactions between residents and canine participants were documented, and also photographed and painted. The research has been presented at a conference, and more presentations and publication of the work are planned

TEACHING ASSISTANT*September 2018 – December 2018*

Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS

- Teaching Assistant for Dr. Jim Sharpe, for the course “Special Topics: Indigenous Knowledge and the Curriculum.” The course combined graduate and undergraduate instruction into a mixed class of students.
- The teaching interests of the students enrolled ranged from elementary, junior and senior high and covered subjects in math, science, language arts, social studies, music and physical education.
- The objective of this course included an exploration of how Indigenous knowledge can be integrated into the school curriculum across all grades and subjects, focusing on using of Jo-ann Archibald’s Indigenous Storywork principles.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

April 2018 – September 2018

Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS

- Collaborative project between Mount Saint Vincent University Mount Saint Vincent University, Nova Scotia Community College & Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute under the larger project: African Canadian Transition Program as it relates to African Nova Scotians.
- Principle Researchers: Dr. Susan Brigham (MSVU), Terrah Keener (NSCC) & George Frempong (DBDLI).

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

September 2017 – January 2018

Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS

- Mapping Language Use & Communication Challenges to the Canadian Language Benchmarks and CELPIP-General LS within Workplace Contexts for Canadian New Immigrants (Paragon Testing Enterprises funded).
- Principle Researchers: Dr. Christine Doe (MSVU), Dr. Scott Douglas (UBC) University of Dr. Liying Cheng (Queen’s University).

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

October 2016 – April 2017

Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS

- Research Assistant for Dr. Ardra Cole using a phenomenological research method to gain insight into the multi-faceted relationships that seniors share with their canine companions and the significant roles that dogs play in their lives. The project was funded by the Social Science Humanities Research Council. A total of 14 human participants and 16 canine participants who lived throughout Nova Scotia participated in this study.

Research & Presentations

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2016 Dalhousie Leadership Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia

- Workshop Co-Presentation w. Salina Kemp & All Nations Drum: “Decolonizing and Transforming Canada Through Indigenous Epistemology, Critical Reflection and Social Action”

CONFERENCE POSTER & PAPER PRESENTATIONS (abstract published)

® = Peer Reviewed

® 2016 Canadian Indigenous Symposium for Teacher Education, Fredericton, NB

- Poster Presentation: “Indigenous Epistemologies as Deep Platforms for Learning.”

® 2018 Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies (CIARS) Decolonizing Conference, Toronto, ON

- Paper Co-Presentation w. Elder Joe Michael: “How can Indigenous Storywork Foster Relationship Building Between Indigenous Peoples and Settlers & Support Socially Just Historical Narratives?”

® 2018 Atlantic Universities' Teaching Showcase on Experiential Learning, Truro, NS

- Paper Co-Presentation w. Elder Joe Michael: "Mi'kmaw Community and Knowledge Garden, Building Relationship through Experiential Learning and Scholarship at Mount Saint Vincent University."
- ® **2018 CASAE Conference, Halifax, NS**
- Paper Co-Presentation w. Dr. Susie Brigham #1: "Embracing Transition to College: Building Africentric Models from the Learning and Voices of the Community."
 - Paper Presentation #2: "Fostering Socially Just Education Initiatives Among the Mi'kmaw & Settlers."
- ® **2017 Adult Education & Community Building, Canadian Association of Study of Adult Education (CASAE), Antigonish, NS**
- 4-Symposium Co-Presentation/Principle Researcher Dr. Ardra Cole: "Older Adults and their Dogs: Perspectives on Companionship & Community."
 - Paper Presentation: "Creating Space for Historical Narratives Through Indigenous Storytelling and Unsettling the Settler."
- ® **2016 CASAE Conference: Engaging Community, Fredericton, NB**
- Paper Presentation: "A Pedagogical Tool for Educational Reform: Creating Space for Historical Narratives Through Indigenous Storywork & Unsettling the Settler."
- ® **2016 Triennial ESREA Conference, Maynooth, Ireland**
- Paper Presentation: "Decolonizing and Transforming Adult Education through Indigenous Knowledge, Critical Reflection and Social Action."
- ® **2016 Nottingham Adult Education Conference Moving Teaching, Inspiring the Power of Place in the Future of Adult Learning, Shrewsbury, England**
- Paper Presentation: "Indigenous Epistemologies as Deep Platforms for Learning."
- ® **2015 Nourishing the Learning Spirit, Canadian Association of Study of Adult Education (CASAE), Halifax, NS**
- Paper Presentation: "Exploring the Learning Spirit in Adult Education."
- ® **2015 CASAE Conference Round Table Presenter, Calgary, AL**
- Paper Presentation: "Importance of Deconstructing the History of Settlers in Atlantic Canada."

Volunteer Experience

ANTI-RACISTS SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

May 2021 – Present

Town of Lunenburg, Lunenburg, NS

- Member of a special committee whose goal is to address racism in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, to create a safe, inclusive environment for all people, this includes examining and dismantling existing institutional racism structures currently in place.

DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

July 2018 – Present

Mahone Bay Museum, Mahone Bay, NS

- Working with a group of Mi'kmaw and settlers with the goal of de-colonizing the museum and ensuring exhibit honour non-Eurocentric views.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH VOLUNTEER

May 2007 – Present

Various locations, Halifax, NS

- Ongoing volunteer work with at-risk individuals, including people experiencing homelessness, recent immigrants to Canada, and the elderly community. This includes assisting with basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter, as well as booking medical appointments, employment opportunities, and organizing education.

WOMEN'S SALING COACH

July 2018 – August 2018

Lunenburg Yacht Club, Lunenburg, NS

- Coached a weekly program introducing women to the sport of sailing.

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZER*May 2018 – October 2018***MSVU Aboriginal Centre Indigenous Garden**

- Assisted with the creation of a university community garden to grow indigenous vegetables and herbs, including tobacco and sage.

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZER*July 2016 – February 2017***Walking with Our Sisters National Art Memorial**

- Assisted with event planning and coordination for the local presentation of a national art memorial to bring awareness to missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada.

SPECIAL NEEDS TUTOR*May 2013 – May 2016***Various Locations, Halifax, NS**

- Private tutoring for high school students and young adults struggling with anxiety and depression

THERAPEUTIC YOGA TEACHER*September 2010 – May 2014***IWK, Halifax, NS**

- Volunteer yoga instructors working patients in youth mental health programs at the hospital.

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZER*January 2014 – December 2014***Hope Blooms Community Garden/IWK Partnership, Halifax, NS**

- Liaison and organizer for IWK mental health youth programs to grow herbs for Hope Blooms.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL) Tutor*September 2010 – May 2014***Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS**

- Working with immigrants in the Halifax community to develop English language skills, in addition to community outreach initiatives when needed.
- Assisted and participated in a Peace March in December 2013 working with Ethiopian immigrants to raise awareness for violence against Ethiopian migrant workers in Saudi Arabia.

YOGA INSTRUCTOR*September 2010 – May 2013***Bridgewater Women's Shelter, Bridgewater, NS**

- Teaching yoga and meditation to at-risk women staying at the women's shelter.

Certifications

- Nova Scotia Teaching License, (ATC1), Nova Scotia Department of Education
- Massachusetts Teaching License (MOD), Massachusetts' Department of Education
- Collaborative Problem-Solving Certificate Level I & II, THINKKIDS.ORG, Massachusetts General Hospital.
- Ashtanga Yoga Instructor, Therapeutic Approach Yoga, Halifax, NS
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Certificate