

Shane Theunissen

Curriculum Vitae



Shane Theunissen BA, B.Ed., M.Ed

11 Summit Street Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 2Z9

(902) 469-0294

shanetheunissen2000@yahoo.ca

Education:

Jan 2004

Masters of Education, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.
Graduated with honours.

--Research centered on apprenticeship learning with a thesis in "Peripheral Engagement as a Path to Development," based on a study conducted in Barbados. This study researched the process of becoming a pot-fisher in Barbados through a strategy of learning called peripheral engagement. Peripheral engagement is derived from Giroux's border pedagogy and Lave and Wenger's writing on legitimate peripheral participation and communities of practice that may facilitate individual agency within the broader context of community development.

--Research in how adept practitioners from dissimilar communities could learn from one another. The objectives of the study were to (a) determine the feasibility of a development practice that uses a model of peripheral engagement; and (b) find out if interactions with an adept practitioner from a contextually dissimilar community of practice might provide lessons for alternative practice and thinking by myself and others.

--The objectives from of this research required data to be gathered from working alongside artisanal fishers in Oistens, Barbados. The data were presented using descriptive narrative and contextualized through an extensive use of photographs and diagrams.

--Used my prior training in development studies and education to compare and contrast my experiences and research into peripheral engagements with actual development practices that were observed while in Barbados.

--Used this comparison to address the research objectives and to substantiate my arguments supporting peripheral engagement as a path to development.

Apr 2000

Bachelor of Education (with honours), Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

--Substantive training and theory in a variety of formal and informal models of learning and assessment.

-- Specific studies in educational foundations and law, educational psychology, teaching exceptional students, and of specific interest to an exploration of contemporary issues in native education.

--Professionally qualified to teach intermediate/senior geography and history.

May 1999

B.A. in Development Studies (distinction, Dean's honours roll), University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario.

--Studies in theory and practice of economic anthropology, anthropology of development, urban and regional planning, social change, and economic and resource geography of developing countries. Developed an interest in artisanal fisheries which subsequently became the focus of Master's research.

Professional Positions and Experience:

- July 2010* **Summer Institute Instructor**
Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Responsibilities include researching and developing curriculum using the relevant material and assessment strategies for the following two courses directed at graduate students in education: Classroom Organization & Program Planning for Learners with Behavioural Challenges and Foundations of Curriculum Studies II.*
- Sept 2007* **Adjunct Professor**
to St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Present
- Responsibilities include researching and developing curriculum using the relevant material and assessment strategies for two courses directed at upper level and graduate students.*
--Courses focused on Education and International Development, Innovations in Education, and International Comparative Education. Nominated for an "Excellence in Teaching" award within the Faculty of Arts, 2008.
- Aug. 2008* **Teacher for at Risk Youth**
to Homebridge Youth Society, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Present
- Responsible for teaching pro-social behaviour to troubled youth*
--Responsible for teaching youth-in-care from Junior and senior high with the intention of having them transition back into their community schools
--Courses focused on Grades 8-10 math, English, Science and social studies.
- Sept 2002* **Curriculum Coordinator**
to Attawapiskat First Nation Education authority.
June 2007
- Member of a partnership preparing a long-term plan for education in the community of Attawapiskat. The plan's focus was on the local generation of curricula that would be more culturally relevant and sustaining.*
--Personally headed a project that facilitated the development of an outdoor education curriculum that utilized community elders, resident cultural experts, school board superintendents and technology as foundations for a vibrant, interdisciplinary and individualized course.
- Sept 2004* **Secondary School Environmental Science, Math, and Social Science Teacher**
to Vezina Secondary School, Attawapiskat, Ontario
June 2007
- Fulfilled a variety of teaching roles within this cross-cultural and English as a second language context.*
--Adult educator of manufacturing technologies within the informal context of the school shop, as well as outdoor education program supervisor.
--Throughout tenure in Attawapiskat, was able to develop effective and documented community relations skills and partnerships.
- Sept 2001* **Grade Seven & Eight Teacher**
to J.R. Nakogee School, Attawapiskat, Ontario
June 2004
- Implemented Ontario Grade Seven and Eight Curriculum with a class of 16 students.*

Other Relevant Professional Experience:

May 2000
to
Aug 2000

Sloop Captain/Instructor
Action Quest, British Virgin Islands

- Master of a 50' sailboat during three-week passages throughout the British Virgin Island group.
- Responsible for teaching basic sailing skills following the American sailing Association guidelines to young adults.
- Responsible for diving operations that were undertaken amongst a flotilla of 6 sailing vessels.
- Opportunity to manage a diverse, informal and dynamic project and workforce.

May 1995
to
July 1996

Brigantine Captain
Bytown Brigantine, Ottawa, Ontario

- Master of a 87' brigantine on the Ottawa River, instructing young adults in all aspects of Square Rig sailing.
- Responsible for maintaining discipline and educational standards among 18 officers and crew.
- Accountable for all shipboard maintenance, safety, and mechanical and structural repairs.
- Position required significant management strategies as provisioning and accounting for the crew was undertaken on a weekly basis.
- Acted as first officer on offshore passage from Chesapeake Bay to Antigua, via Bermuda.
- Responsible for meteorological passage planning as well as the care, education and discipline of a crew of 28 adults.

Diving Course (honours), Seneca College, King City, Ontario.

Sept. 1993
to
June 1994

- Developed technical competencies in using, maintaining and repairing commercial diving equipment, including hyperbaric chambers, air compressors, superlite 17 diving helmets and bandmasks.
- Skills acquisition in diving and marine salvage physics and mathematics.

May-Sept
1991&1992

Sailing Instructor
Humber College, Toronto, Ontario

- Taught sailing and coastal navigation to adults. This position afforded me a long lesson in discipline and humility.
- Young adult teaching within an andragogical education structure.
- Opportunity of entering into a dialectic relationship with my students, allowing me to reflect on my own practices and teaching.

June-Aug
1991&1992

Senior Sailing Instructor
Independence Afloat Sailing School, Toronto, Ontario

- Taught sailing to children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities.
- Developed strong interpersonal and community relations skills.

Conference Presentations:

Oct 25, 2008 Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) Teaching Showcase 2008: University of New Brunswick Saint John.

Presentation: "Active Learning Strategies: Documenting experience through reflective writing."

--Postulated that the process of reflective writing may allow the student to bridge their inner and outer world and facilitate the paths from action to reflection, and cognitive capability to personal transformation.

May 1, 2008 Assessment and Evaluation Conference, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Presentation: "Reflective Action as an Assessment Strategy".

--Postulated that reflective action might not be feasible in all classrooms.

--In certain circumstances may open doors for students to enter into each other's lives and communicate with each other from an individual and largely self-determined perspective.

Mar 14, 2006 Great Moon Conference, James Bay Coast.

Presentation: "Implementing Outdoor and Cultural Studies Through a Multi-Disciplinary Approach".

--Participants in this presentation were able to learn, from my experiences, the pedagogical and cultural underpinnings of experiential education within contemporary First Nation's classes.

-- Participants were also able to learn many practical implementation strategies, with some participants returning to their home communities to build fledgling programs within their own schools.

Additional Professional Skills and Qualifications:

- Registered member of the Nova Scotia College of Teachers
- Special Education Part 1.
- ASIST Training November 2008. (Suicide Intervention Training)
- Teaching Pro-social Behaviour to Troubled Youth.
- CPI Training.
- 200-ton yachtmaster qualification issued by the British Department of Transport.
- Sea-survival course at the Glasgow College of Nautical Studies.
- PADI advanced diver.

Languages:

Afrikaans: fluent

Dutch: read, conversant

Zulu: conversant

Strong working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Windows XP 2000, Ontario Curriculum Unit Planner, multimedia presentation/Power Point, and technological integration into the curriculum.