

*Name and position today and a short background.*

**Leona M. English**, professor of adult education at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia.



**2. Contact; Address; Telephone; e-mail;**

120 Xavier Hall

St. Francis Xavier University

Antigonish, NS, Canada, B2G 2W5

Tel (866) 203 1086 or (902) 867-2459

<http://people.stfx.ca/english/>

**Background and short CV**

please see full list on my webpage. <http://people.stfx.ca/english/>

Doctor of Philosophy. Adult Education. University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

Doctor of Education. Religion & Education. Teachers College, Columbia University

Master of Religious Education. University of St. Michael's College & Univ. of Toronto

Bachelor of Arts. Memorial University of Newfoundland. Religious Studies, English

Bachelor of Education. Memorial University of Newfoundland. Secondary Education

**Keywords to characterize your research profile:**

Poststructuralism, spirituality, adult learning, gender, history

**Research and interest fields**

My areas of research are in spirituality of adult education, gender and learning, and critical theory. As an academic working in both fields, religion and education, I am a member of religious education and adult education professional associations, and a past president of the Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education. One of my primary academic goals is to explore the intersections between adult education and religion, and to heal the divisions that exist between them. I see the social sciences, especially sociology, as helpful in understanding the conflicts that exist and as a way of informing our theory and practice of adult religious education.

Over the past number of years, I have developed my interests through a program of qualitative research informed by critical social science theories of postmodern/structuralism. My starting place tends to be gender and the various ways that women are affected by their cultural, social and economic milieu, and in turn, how this affects their spiritual growth and place within religious and other civil society institutions. Of late, I have begun archival work which also gives voice to women who have been silenced in the annals of history. This archival work continues my focus on women and their subversive learning of ways to resist.

**Current projects:**

My present work is a federally funded study of women's contributions to adult education in the mid-twentieth century. The purpose of this work is to examine the interconnections among education, gender, and religion, from a critical historical lens. My ISREV 2012 paper was a product of this study; it provided a poststructural analysis of the religious education efforts of the Newfoundland School Society in the nineteenth century. I am now conducting biographical case studies of a number of these women who were editors, writers and organizers, and whose contributions to organizations such as churches have been largely erased.

In tandem with this historical research, I am writing a book on women in adult education, with a particular focus on social transformation. This book arises from several qualitative studies on women in international development as well as women working in non-profit centres. I am focusing not only on their leadership strengths but on the issues of identity that arise from their spiritual questions, their interactions with sponsoring organizations, and the challenges of working for justice in an increasingly fundamentalist milieu.

## **Bibliography**

Please go to my webpage for a full list <http://people.stfx.ca/lenglish/>

### *Books*

- English, L.M., & Mayo, P. (2012). *Learning with adults: A critical pedagogical introduction*. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers.
- English, L.M. (Ed.). (2012). *Adult education and health*. University of Toronto Press.
- English, L.M. (Ed.). (2005). *International encyclopedia of adult education*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- English, L.M. et al. (2003). *Spirituality in adult education and training*. Malabar, FL: Krieger.
- English, L.M., & Gillen, M.A. (Eds.). (2000). *Addressing the spiritual dimensions of adult learning*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

### *Book chapters*

- English, L.M. (2012). For whose purposes? Examining the spirituality agenda in adult education. In J. Groen, D. Coholic, & J. R. Graham (Eds.), *Spirituality in social work and education: Theory, practice and pedagogies* (pp. 17-33). Waterloo, ON: Wilfred Laurier University Press.
- English, L.M. (2010). Pedagogical practice of interreligious education: Critical social science directions. In K. Engebretson, M. de Souza, G. Durka, & L. Gearon (Eds.), *International handbook for inter-religious education*, volume 1 of 2 (pp. 425-440). New York: Springer Press.
- Harper, L., English, L.M., & Macdonald, T.E. (2010). Rural feminist activism and religious fundamentalism, Nova Scotia, Canada. In S. Gokal, R. Barbero, & C. Balchin (Eds.), *Key learnings from feminists on the frontline: Summaries of case studies on resisting and challenging fundamentalisms*. Toronto, Mexico City and Capetown: Association of Women in Development. Full case published online [http://www.awid.org/eng/About-AWID/AWID-Initiatives/Resisting-and-Challenging-Religious-Fundamentalisms/CF-Case\\_Studies](http://www.awid.org/eng/About-AWID/AWID-Initiatives/Resisting-and-Challenging-Religious-Fundamentalisms/CF-Case_Studies)
- English, L.M., & Tisdell, E. J. (2010). Spirituality and adult education. In C. Kasworm, A. Rose, & J. Ross-Gordon (Eds.), *Handbook of adult and continuing education* (pp. 285-293). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

### *Articles in journals*

- English, L. M. (2012). Teaching the “Morally and Economically Destitute”: Nineteenth Century Adult Education Efforts in Newfoundland. *Acadiensis: Journal of the History of the Atlantic Region*, XLI, no. 2, 66-88.
- English, L.M. (2012). The Newfoundland School Society (1830-1840): A critical discourse analysis of its religious education efforts. *Religious Education*, 107(5, December), 499-513. DOI: 10.1080/00344087.2012.722480.
- English, L.M. (2012). Transformative learning theory: Implications for the adult religious education of women. *Journal of Religious Education (AU)*, 60 (1), 41-47.
- English, L.M. (2010). Adult education of the laity: A church concern. *Theoforum (A journal of the Faculty of Theology, St. Paul University, Ottawa)*, 41(1), 131-148.
- English, L.M. (2008). Revisiting voice, subjectivity and circles: Feminist pedagogy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. *Journal of Adult Theological Education*, 5(2), 112-125.

### *Other publications*

- English, L.M., & Zeph, C. (Eds.). (2006). Special issue of *Journal of Adult Theological Education*. 3 (2). Theme: Lay Ministry Education.

See webpage <http://people.stfx.ca/lenglish/>

---

(2013-01-09)