

Curriculum Vitae

POTVIN, Elizabeth Ann (Liza)

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Columbia

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E-mail: Liza.Potvin@viu.ca

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DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:

CITIZENSHIP:

LANGUAGES:

Read

English
French
Danish
Spanish
Norwegian
Swedish
Classical Latin
Medieval Latin
Old English
Old Norse

Written

English
French
Danish
Spanish
Classical Latin
Anglo Saxon

Spoken

English
French
Spanish

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University of Vancouver Island
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December 6, 1958
Moselle, France

Canadian

EDUCATION:

Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, B.C.	Creative Writing (Playwriting)	2006
	Teaching English as a Foreign Language (Certificate)	2001
University of Montana, Continuing Education	Creative Writing (Fiction)	1998
McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario	Ph.D. (English)	1991
Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario	M.A. (English)	1984
University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta	Honours B.A.(English-Dean's List)	1983
Université de Toulon, Toulon, France	French Literature	1982
Athabasca University, Athabasca, Alberta	Liberal Studies	1978-80
McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario	Experimental Social Sciences	1976-78
Odense Universitetet, Odense, Denmark	Scandinavian Social Policy	1974-75

M.A. THESIS (Renaissance): A consideration of the poetry and sermons of John Donne, the argument of this thesis is that Donne's concepts of *eros* and *agape* differ radically from those of the Neoplatonists, owing more to Leone Ebreo and Dante than to Plato.

Supervisor: Dr. A. C. Hamilton

PH.D. THESIS (Canadian Poetry): This thesis examines theories in feminist mythopoeic reconstruction and in contemporary theology, and considers their application to three English Canadian poets: Phyllis Webb, Gwendolyn MacEwen, and Anne Wilkinson. It compares gendered models of heroic and spiritual quests, argues that Canadian women poets articulate their spiritual difference in an original fashion, and concludes that a marginalized female mystical tradition in Canadian poetry merits further recognition.

Supervisor: Dr. J. Coldwell (Women's Studies)

Committee: Dr. L. York (English)
Dr. S. Bowerbank (Arts and Sciences)
Dr. D. Kinsley (Religious Studies)

External Examiner: Dr. T. Marshall (English, Queen's University)

GRADUATE COURSES:

Feminist Literary Theory	Dr. J. Coldwell	1985-86
Modern American Poetry	Dr. A. Berland	1985-86
Postmodern Literary Theory	Dr. L. Hutcheon	1984-85
Literary Theory: Aristotle to Dryden	Dr. R. Vince	1984-85
Eighteenth-Century Prose Fiction	Dr. D. Blewett	1984-85
Developments in Canadian Fiction	Dr. D.O. Spettigue	1983-84
Professional and Scholarly Skills	Dr. W.C. Ferguson	1983-84
Renaissance Poetry and Prose	Dr. A.C. Hamilton	1983-84
Victorian Literature	Dr. K. McSweeney	1983-84
Colonialism and Canadian Literature	Dr. C.R. Steele	1982-83
Canadian Poetry	Dr. C.R. Steele	1982-83

AWARDS:

Fundacion Valparaiso fellowship, Mojacar, Spain	2010
Dairy Hollow Writers' Colony Fellowship, Arkansas	2009
Wallace Stegner Grant for the Arts	2004
Diane Hobson Scholarship, Banff Centre for the Arts	2004
<i>Zygote Magazine</i> Best Fiction	2001
<i>Quarry Magazine</i> Best Short Story	2000
Valley Writers' Guild John Spencer Hill Award for Fiction	2000
Edna Staebler Creative Nonfiction Award	1993
S.S.H.R.C. Aid to Scholarly Conferences Grant	1992
Canada Council Grant	1989
McMaster Graduate Award	1986
Ontario Graduate Scholarship	1985
McMaster Graduate Award	1985
S.S.H.R.C. Reversion List	1985
Edna Ross Reeves Scholarship (McMaster)	1985
McMaster Graduate Award	1984
Stewart Fellowship (Queen's)	1984
Queen's Graduate Award	1984
Louise McKinney Scholarship (Alberta Heritage Foundation)	1982

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

College Professor, Department of English, Malaspina University College	1990 – 2008
Literary Assistant, Tibetan Cultural Association, Delhi, India	2001-02
E.F.L. teacher for Tibetan Refugee League, Karnataka, India	2001-02
Poetry teacher at Fairview Elementary School	1998-9
Poetry teacher for Nanaimo Montessori School (Elementary)	1997
Instructor, Writing Centre, Malaspina University College	1993 - 94
Teaching Assistant, Department of English, McMaster University	1984-87
Teaching Assistant, Department of English, Queen's University	1983-84
English Immersion Program Tutor, University of Calgary	1982-83
E.F.L. Instructor in Japan, Korea, Taiwan	1980-81
English Literacy Tutor for New Canadians Society (Calgary)	1982; 1979-80

COURSES TAUGHT:

Creative Writing 300	Creative Nonfiction	2003, 2006
English 453	English-Canadian Poetry 1920-1960	1992, 1993
English 452	Contemporary Canadian Poetry	1993,94, 2001
English 451	Canadian Drama	2008
English 450	Canadian Fiction	1990, 91, 92,
96, 97, 99, 2000, 01, 06		
English 361	The Metaphysical Poets	2003
English 318	Jazz & Poetry: The Oral Tradition	1997
English 317	Aboriginal Drama	2010
English 262	Children's Literature	1996
English 244	Women's Spiritual Quests in Literature	1991
English 214	Effects of Colonization on Aboriginal Women	2011
English 200	Old English to Eighteenth-Century	1993, 99
English 205	Intro. to Canadian Literature (to 1960)	2002, 03, 06
English 206	Intro. to Canadian Literature (after 1960)	1999, 2003,
04, 05, 07, 09, 12		
English 201	British Survey: Romantics & Modern	1994
English 125	Literature and Culture (3 sections)	2009,11, 12
English 112	Poetry for Recreation Admin. Students	1993
English 111	Fiction for Recreation Admin. Students	1992
English 111	Poetry and Drama (32 sections)	90-92,94-
99,02,03,05, 06		
English 112	Fiction and the Short Story (18 sections)	1990-2000,
02, 03, 07, 08		
English 115	Composition (12 sections)	2000-01, 04,
05, 08, 09,10		
English 116	Introduction to Literature (11 sections)	1996-98, 04,
06, 07, 09		
English 109T	English for Accountants	1992, 95, 96
English 198	Composition	1991

Theatre 203
09,11, 12

Public Speaking

2005, 08,

AREAS OF INTEREST:

Life Writing, Creative Nonfiction and Autobiography
Translation and Comparative Literature
Pedagogy
Feminist Theory
Renaissance Poetry
Mythology
Nomadic Shelter Design
Bibliotherapy
Music, Dance, Breathwork (Oral Poetry)
National Lifeguard and Swimming Instructor/Coach

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

The Writers' Union of Canada
Saskatchewan Writers' Guild
Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English
Canadian Women's Studies Association
Canadian Comparative Literature Association
Midwestern Association for Canadian Studies
Simone de Beauvoir Society
Popular Culture Association

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SERVICE, AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE:

Summer Institute for Union Women, Victoria BC	2011
Chair, Status of Women VIU Faculty Association	2011-12
Judge, National Newspaper Award Foundation, Ottawa	2011
Planning Committee, English Department	2009-12
Fundacion Valparaiso Artist Residency (Mojacar, Spain)	2010
Ralph Gustafson Committee for Poet in Residence	2009
Dairy Hollow Artist Residency, Eureka Springs, Arkansas	2009
VIU Research and Awards Committee	2005-07
Banff Centre for the Arts Writing Studio	2004
English Department Planning Committee	2003-04, 9-11
English Department Scholarships and Awards Committee	1999-2009
Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Writers' Colony, Muenster, Saskatchewan	1999, 2007
CIEA Professional Development Seminar on Research in Teaching,	1999
Panelist, Ralph Gustafson Chair in Poetry, Inaugural Symposium, Oct.17 1998	
Chair, English Dept. Curriculum Committee, Vancouver Island University	1997-99

Sage Hill Writing Experience (Lumsden, Saskatchewan)	1996
Chief Steward, Malaspina Faculty Association	1993-94
President's Advisory Committee, Vancouver Island University	1992-93
Multidisciplinary Studies Hiring Committee, Vancouver Island University	1992
Organizer, "Female Friendship in Canadian Writing" Conference, Vancouver Island University	1992
"Great Teachers" Seminar, Centre for Curriculum and Professional Development, Naramata Centre, B.C.	1992
Special Lecture Session : "Women in Philosophy" (Learning Community)	1992
Committee for Design of Literacy Profile Index Challenge Exam	1992
Hiring Committee, Dept. of English, Vancouver Island University	1992
Chair, Symposium on First Nations Orature	1992
Library Resources Committee, Vancouver Island University	1991-92
Personnel Steward Training and Contract Administration Workshop	1991
Personnel Steward, Malaspina U-C Faculty Association	1990-93
Status of Women Committee, Malaspina U-C Faculty Association	1990-94
Standards and Implementations Committee, English Department, Malaspina	1990-91
Chair, Northeast M.L.A., English-Canadian Poetry Section (Special Session on b.p. Nichol and Gwendolyn MacEwen)	1989-90
Secretary, Northeast M.L.A. (English-Canadian Poetry Section)	1988-89
Chair, McMaster University Women's Studies Group	1986-87
Student Body Representative, University of Calgary Humanities Council	1982-83

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE:

Nanaimo Women's Mentorship Program (for high school girls)	1994-5
Nanaimo High School Presentations of College English Standards	1992
"Women Do Math" workshop for Nanaimo High School Students	1991
Counselor, Sexual Assault Crisis Centre (Kingston)	1990
President, Traditionelle Inc. (Design and manufacture of tepees)	1979-81
Co-Ordinator, Calgary Public Works Outdoor Education Program for Juveniles in Conflict with the Law	1979-80

PAPERS PRESENTED:

“A Consideration of Poetry Today: The Canadian Context”,
States of the Art conference, Universistät des Saarlandes,
October 23-25, 2008
Saarbrücken, Germany

“Remembering It In Our Bones: Marie Clements’ *Burning Vision*”,
Institute of British and American Culture and Literature,
Sept 14-17, 2005
Ustron, Poland

“Life-Writing, the Confessional, and theories of Trauma and Testimony”
Canadian Comparative Literature Association, Congress
May 29, 2003
Halifax, Nova Scotia

“Margaret Atwood’s *Cat’s Eye*: What’s a Nice Canadian Girl Doing Messing Around with Voodooism?”

Midwestern Association for Canadian Studies,
Franklin College, Indianapolis, Indiana
October 23, 1998

"Simone de Beauvoir and M.F.K. Fisher: Will the Real Feminist Please Stand Up?"

Simone de Beauvoir Society Conference,
Stanford University,
Palo Alto, California
January 23, 1993

"Who's Afraid of Feminism?" (with Brenda Sully),

International Women's Day Symposium,
Vancouver Island University,
Nanaimo, B.C.
March 6, 1992

"M.F.K. Fisher and Simone de Beauvoir: The Myth of Transcendence and the Ascendence of the Body in Women's Autobiography" (with Brenda Sully),

Modern Language Association Conference,
San Francisco, California
December 30, 1991

"Feminist Pedagogy and Strategies for Accepting Disclosures in the Classroom",

Canadian Women's Studies Association, Learned Society Conference
Queen's University,
Kingston, Ontario
May 31, 1991

"Isabel Huggan and Women's Autobiographical Strategies",

Northeast Modern Language Association Conference,
Wilmington, Delaware
April 2, 1989

"Women and Self-Defense",

International Women's Day Conference, McMaster University,
Hamilton, Ontario
March 8, 1989

"Women's Spirituality in the writings of Margaret Laurence",
Canadian Women's Studies Association, Learned Society Conference,
University of Windsor,
Windsor, Ontario
June 2, 1988

"Al Purdy and Alden Nowlan: The Conflicting Eye/I",
Northeast Modern Language Association Conference,
Providence, Rhode Island
March 24, 1988

"The Dostoevskiiian *Doppelgänger* in the fiction of Marie-Claire Blais",
Boundaries in/of Literature Conference, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario
March 7, 1987

PUBLICATIONS:

NONFICTION Books:

Dog Days: Between the Lines. With Carol Matthews. Nanaimo: Louise Hamilton Books, 2009.

Cougarman Percy Dewar. Victoria, BC: Trafford, 2005.

White Lies (for my mother). Edmonton: NeWest Press, 1992.

1993 Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction.

1992 VanCity Book Award - finalist.

1992 *Vancouver Sun* "Six Best Books of the Year"

NONFICTION Articles:

"Marie Clements' *Burning Vision*", *Commonwealth Essays and Studies*. Spring 2010 (forthcoming)

"Remembering It in Our Bones: Marie Clements' *Burning Vision*", *Mapping Literary Spaces: Memory, Place, Locality*. Katowice, Poland: University of Silesia Press, 2009: 136-42.

Reprinted in *Literary and Cultural Theory: Cartographies of Culture*. Eds. Wojciech Kalaga and Marzena Kubisz. Vol. 35. Frankfurt: Lang, 2010: 107-14.

"Tango and its Metaphors", *Descant* 147 (Winter 2009): 177-81.

"Anais Nin Revisited", *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*
Vol. 31, issue 3 (2004): 337-42.

"Voodooism and Female Quest Patterns in Margaret Atwood's *Cat's Eye*", *Journal of Popular Culture* 36.2 (Winter 2003) :636-50.

"Sheila Watson: Writing as Redemption", *Antigonish Review* 130 (Summer 2002): 131-9.

"So How Do We Tell the Truth? Witness Theory and Shattered Selves", *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature* 26.2 (1999): 235-50.

"A Portrait",
The Ohio Review 51 (Winter 1994 Special Issue on Mentors): 89-96.

"Feminist Pedagogy and Confronting Disclosures of Sexual Abuse in the Classroom",
Feminism and Education: A Canadian Perspective. Volume II.
Toronto: Canadian Women's Studies in Education, 1994:161-173.

"Phyllis Webb: The Voice that Breaks",
Canadian Poetry 32 (Spring/Summer 1993):37-63.

"Aging with Fear, Aging with Grace: M.F.K. Fisher and Simone de Beauvoir on 'Otherness'",
Simone de Beauvoir Studies 9 (1992):108-20.
(co-authored with Brenda Sully)

"Gwendolyn MacEwen and Female Spiritual Desire",
Canadian Poetry 28 (Spring/Summer 1991):18-39.

"'A Mystery at the Core of Life': Margaret Laurence and Women's Spirituality",
Canadian Literature 128 (Spring 1991): 25-38.

"*The Elizabeth Stories* and Women's Autobiographical Strategies",
Studies in Canadian Literature 14.2 (January 1989):1-9.

"The Dostoevskiiian *Doppelgänger* in the fiction of Marie-Claire Blais",
Comparative Literature in Canada 19.2 (1988): 22-30.

"*Mrs. Blood* and *The Bell Jar* : Portraits of the Artist as Divided Woman",
Atlantis: A Women's Studies Journal 13.1 (Fall 1987): 38-46.

"The 'Eternal Feminine' and the Clothing Motif in Grove's Fiction",
Studies in Canadian Literature 12.2 (1987): 22-38.

REVIEWS:

Alexander McLeod's *Light Lifting*, Anne Perdue's *I'm a Registered Nurse Not a Whore* and Rachel Wyatt's *Letters to Omar*,
Event 40.1 (Spring 2011): 103-6.

"*My Sweet Curiosity* (Amanda Hale) and *Berlin* (Michael Mirolla)",
Event 38.3 (Winter 2010): 108-111.

"*Circumventing Evil*",
(André Alexis' *Asylum*, Marion Douglas' *Dance Hall Road*, and Britt Holmström's
Claudia)
Event 37.3 (Winter 2009): 106-110.

"Letting It Slide",
(Roberta Rees' *Long After Fathers* and Sarah Klassen's *A Feast of Longing*)
Event 36.3 (Winter 2008): 113-17.

"Sailing to Freedom",
(Madeliene Thien's *Certainty*, Gail Robinson's *God of the Plains*, and Michael Poole's
After the Rain.
Event 35.3 (Spring 2007): 118-22.

"Dangerous Journeys",
(Camilla Gibb's *Sweetness in the Belly*, Francine D'Amour's *Return to Africa*, and Don
Gilmour's *A Nice Night to Visit China*.
Event 34.3 (Spring 2006): 113-116.

"Well Worth Waiting For",
(Review of Mary Swan's *Emma's Hands*, Carrie Synder's *Hair Hat*, Joanne Soper-
Cook's *The Opium Lady*)
Event 33.2 (Fall 2004): 112-115.

"The 'Muck of History'",
(Review of Helen Humphries' *The Lost Garden*, Aislinn Hunter's *Stay*, Almeda Glenn
Miller's *Tiger Dreams*)
Event 32.2 (Summer 2003): 103-106.

"Compassion",
(Review of Theresa Kishkan's *Sisters of Grass*, Leona Theis' *Sightlines*, Barbara Scott's
Away)
Event 30.1. (Winter 2001): 121-125.

"Endless Yearnings",
(Review of Bill Gaston's *Sex is Red*, Thomas Child's *Bettina*, Betty Wilson's *The Book of Sarah*)
Event 28.2 (Fall 1999): 114-117.

Selected author reviews for *Instructor's Manual* for *The Art of Short Fiction* (brief edition).
Ed. Gary Geddes. Addison Wesley Longman, 1999.

"Frederick Phillip Grove and Theodore Dreiser in *Sexualizing Power in Naturalism*",
Canadian Review of Comparative Literature 25.1-2 (March-June 1998): 274-277.

"Linked Lives",
(Review of Elizabeth Hay's *Small Change*, Mary Borsky's *Influence of the Moon*, and Pamela Donaghue's *Comfort Zones*)
Event 27.1 (Spring 1998): 120-123.

"Seasons of Fire and Water",
(Review of Jane Southwell Munro's *Animal Dreams and Grief Notes*, Kristjana Gunnar's *Exiles Among Us*, Bruce Rice's *Descent into Peru*, and Tim Bowling's *Low Water Slack*),
Event 25.3 (Winter 1996-7): 146-150.

"Heading Back Down the Road",
(Review of Jay Rusesky's *Painting the Yellow House Blue*, Michael Redhill's *Lake Nora Arms*, Barbara Klar's *The Night You Called Me A Shadow*, Lesley-Anne Bourne's *Skinny Girls*, and Brenda Brooks' *Blue Light in the Dash*)
Event 24.1 (Spring 1995):126-132.

"The 'Loving Service' of Bronwen Wallace",
(Review of Bronwen Wallace's *Arguments with the World*)
Queen's Quarterly (Spring 1994):241-245.

"Spiritual Expatriates: Janice Kulyk Keefer's *Rest Harrow*",
Event 22.3 (Winter 1993-94):47-51.

"Diving into the Canadian Cultural Wreck",
(Review of Carol Corbeil's *Voice-Over*)
Event 22.1 (Spring 1993):124-127.

"The Unbearable Lightness of Seeing",
(Review of Mark Frutkin's *Acts of Light*, Rosemary Sullivan's *Blue Panic*, J.A. Hamilton's *Body Rain*, and Carolyn Smart's *The Way To Come Home*)
Event 21.3 (Fall 1992):124-128.

"Playing with Fire: Phyllis Webb",
(Review of Phyllis Webb's *Hanging Fire*)
Event 21.2 (Summer 1992):120-122.

David Manicom's *Theology of Swallows*,
The Malahat Review 98 (Spring 1992): 103-106.

"La Passion selon Suzanne Jacob et Alice Parizeau"
Canadian Literature 117 (Summer 1988):156-158.

FICTION Books:

The Traveller's Hat. Vancouver: Raincoast, 2003.

SHORT FICTION:

"Midget"
EVENT 35/2 (Winter 2006): 74-84.

"The Way Home"
Zygote Magazine Vol. 7, no.4 (Winter 2001): 12-13.
First Place Fiction, "Family Plots" Writing Contest.

"Assumptions"
Zygote Magazine Vol. 7, no.4 (Winter 2001): 16-18.
Reprinted in *Outskirts: Women Writing from Small Places*. Ed. Emily Schultz. Toronto:
Sumach Press, 2002: 28-37.

"The Way Back Home",
The Grist Mill (Winter 2000): 63-5.
Valley Writers' Guild John Spencer Hill Award for Fiction.

"After Hours, After Years",
Quarry Magazine. Vol. 46, no. 1 (July 2000): 17-22.
Winner of *Quarry* "Life in the Modern World" Contest 2000.
1993 Finalist in *Event* Creative Non-Fiction Contest.
Reprinted in *LitWit*.
Reprinted in *Islands West: Stories from the Coast*. Ed. Keith Harrison. Lantzville:
Oolichan Books, 2001:131-40.

"The Death of a Husband",
Visions and Echoes: Patterns of Transcendence Among Canadian Women Writers.
Eds. Jo-Anne Elder and Colin O'Connell. Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier Press, 1997: 57-60.
Reprinted in *CRASH* number 9 (litzine).

POETRY:

"Debbie's Basement",
Contemporary Verse II 16/1 (Summer 1993):61-4.

"Beatitude"
A Room of One's Own 14/2 (March 1991):71-2.

DRAMA:

Wings. Produced by Frank Moher. Director Eliza Gardiner.
Western Edge Theatre, March 27, 2007.

Produced by Robin Kelley. Director Catherine Cains.
Theatre One, February 20, 2008.

Restaged as dance production. Sponsored by Crimson Coast Dance Society,
Haven Society, City of Nanaimo, University of Vancouver Island Status of Women
Committee. Director Eliza Gardiner.
December 6, 2008.

VIDEO:

Wilfred Watson is Here! With Bruce Finlayson. FinVin Productions, 1996.

RADIO INTERVIEWS:

CBC Radio Canada (Vancouver). Nov. 13, 1992. Commentaire sur *White Lies* avec
Sylvia L'Ecuyer.

CHUB (Nanaimo). September 8, 1992. Panel discussion on child abuse.

CHUB (Nanaimo). July 22, 1992. Forty-minute discussion of *White Lies* with Bob
McClelland, former B.C. Health Minister.

REFEREES:

Susan Wasserman,
Editorial Board,
EVENT Magazine
Douglas College
P.O. Box 2503
New Westminster, B.C.
V3L 5B2
CANADA
susanwasserman@shaw.ca
(604) 738-1255

Janice Kulyk Keefer
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436 MacKinnon Building,
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 2W1
CANADA
jkeefe@uoguelph.ca
(519) 824-4120 x 3825

John Lepage
Department of English
University of Vancouver Island
900 Fifth St.
Nanaimo, B.C.
V9R 5S5
CANADA
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(250) 753-3245 x 2116

Marilyn Bowering
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University of Vancouver Island
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Nanaimo, BC
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(250) 642-3793