

SABRINA N. JAFRALIE, Ph.D., M.A., B.Ed.

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Compassionate, loyal and wholly committed bilingual **educational practitioner** with a passion for developing exceptional teachers that facilitate student learning. Recognized as a specialist in Ethics and Religious Culture, brings over 16 years' teaching experience at the secondary and university levels with experience in the Canadian and British educational systems. Thrives in the academic environment, leading with her heart and putting complete effort towards implementing ambitious educational initiatives. Confident and well-spoken, enthusiastically shares ideas and strives to improve curricula and enhance organizational reputation. Energetically committed to lifelong learning, questioning and thinking.

MISSION STATEMENT

As a student, I had a wonderful teacher who inspired me immensely and opened my eyes to the opportunities afforded by education. Now, as an education professional myself, I inspire my students in the same way that teacher inspired me. I am highly student-centered, believing that students deserve the best possible education and the best possible teachers. To achieve this, I draw from my advanced education, experience and passion to instill in teachers confidence as well as professional competence, allowing them to use their training to develop students into full-fledged human beings. My particular passion is with religious education curricula design and I desire to bring the curriculum alive for students, promoting religious literacy, critical thinking, pluralism, respect and fairness.

DEMONSTRATED COMPETENCIES

- **Well-versed in pre-service teacher education:** dedicated to sustaining a constant transmission of knowledge, stresses making the moment of connection with each student; emphasizes adaptability and flexibility in adopting different teaching styles to suit learner needs
- **Accomplished in curriculum development:** extensive experience developing and implementing new curricula; excels at recognizing and overcoming biases in content development to create comprehensive and objective educational material
- **Specialist in religious literacy:** relentlessly driven by a duty to ensure students are given the knowledge and skills necessary to critically think through issues; encourages students to ask: *what am I missing?*
- **Leader in digital literacy:** leads role playing sessions and student discussions to equip students with the tools to thrive in an increasingly digitized and social media saturated world; helps students cope with "trolls" and determine what is appropriate online behaviour
- **Bilingual:** fluent in English; professional working knowledge of French

EDUCATION

McGill University, Montreal, QC **Doctor of Education (EdD)** 2017

Advisor: Dr. Ronald Morris

Committee: Dr. Kevin McDonough and Dr. Anila Ashgar

Thesis: The Challenges of Teaching the Religion Component of the Ethics and Religious Culture Program: A Study of Secondary Teachers in the Montreal Area

Concordia University, Montreal, QC **Master of Arts, Theological Studies** 2010

Advisor: Dr. Lucian Turcescu and Dr. Christine Jamieson

Key Projects: Teaching Ethics and Religious Culture in The Classroom: Fostering Critical Thinking
Forgiveness and Reconciliation in South Africa

McGill University, Montreal, QC **Bachelor of Education, History & Religious Studies** 2001

Specialization: Secondary History and Moral and Religious Education

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

McGill University, Montreal, PQ

2014 - Present

COURSE LECTURER (Fall 2017, 2018, 2019, & 2020)

Values in Education: Theory and Praxis of Religious Education, Department of Integrated Studies in Education

- Recruited to develop new course for graduate students; responsible for selecting topics, developing curriculum, and designing marking and evaluation frameworks

COURSE LECTURER (Fall 2017 & 2018)

Cross-Curricular Teaching Methods, Department of Integrated Studies in Education

- Teach pre-service teachers techniques to use in the classroom

COURSE LECTURER (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 & 2020)

Ethics & Religious Culture Methodology, Department of Integrated Studies in Education

- Instructed and prepared 20 pre-service teachers for teaching the secondary level Ethics & Religious Culture program

COURSE LECTURER (Fall 2015, 2016 & 2019)

The Religious Quest, Department of Integrated Studies in Education

- Prepared course for 100 undergraduate students in comparative and experiential religious experience
- Assembled a panel of professionals from diverse religious backgrounds to speak to class

COURSE LECTURER (2013 - 2020 - taught 10 semesters)

Professional Seminar (Graduate & first year), Department of Integrated Studies in Education

- Prepared 20 pre-service teachers for competency-based discipline skills and methods of classroom management

TEACHING ASSISTANT (Winter 2016)

Ethics & Religious Culture Elementary, Department of Integrated Studies in Education

DOCTORAL WORKSHOP COORDINATOR (Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016)

ABC of PhD Series, Faculty of Education

- Prepared workshops for doctorate students in the Faculty of Education

TEACHING ASSISTANT (Fall 2014)

The Religious Quest, Department of Integrated Studies in Education

Westmount High School, Westmount, PQ

Sep 2006 - Present

HEAD TEACHER, ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS CULTURE DEPARTMENT (Sep 2008 - Present)

- Manage up to 10 teachers and develop a yearly curriculum program for a school of 900 students
- Organize annual graduation trip for up to 100 students; raise funds, manage budget and plan itinerary
- Coordinate Black History Month events each year

Key Achievements:

- Promoted to lead implementation of new program; provide training and orientation to 5 new teachers annually
- Developed curricula based on 8 themes; digitized lesson plans and integrated multimedia resources for grades 7, 8, 10 & 11
- Secured annual grant from school board for resource development and school trips to religious sites
- Created resources for teachers and pre-service teachers; developed and digitalized a program guide including a curriculum planner for new teachers
- Developed an annual school-wide charitable initiative, Soles for Souls
- Initiated an online blog, Knights of WHS, for students to post stories as part of course mark
- Selected for two-year training program with the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisirs et Sports; one of 10 teachers chosen to represent Montreal and the English Montreal School Board for implementation of Quebec's Ethics & Religious Culture

TEACHER, ETHICS & RELIGIOUS CULTURE DEPARTMENT (Sep 2006 - Sep 2008)

- Taught course on topic of ethics and religious to address pluralism and interculturalism within Quebec society; encouraged students to critically examine and explore their beliefs and the beliefs of others
- Initiated a remediation program, the Empowerment Club, to teach conflict management skills
- Assisted with activities during Multicultural Day; organized several fundraisers to raise funds for global events
- Coached girls' basketball team

Key Achievement: Advised on the development of Quebec's new religious education program; one of the main trainers to facilitate transmission across Quebec

Quebec Board of Black Educators, Montreal, PQ

Jun - Aug 2007

PRINCIPAL

- Led a summer school program for students aged 5 - 12 years; curriculum included English, French, math, science and history
- Managed a team of four teachers with varying levels of teaching experience

Mayfield College, London, UK

2005 & 2007

HEAD TEACHER, PERSONAL, SOCIAL & HEALTH EDUCATION (Fall 2007)

- Developed a new curriculum including citizenship education and trained teachers on new curriculum guidelines
- Achieved an Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) inspection grade of “very good” as a new department

TEACHER, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (Fall 2005)

- Taught 6 major world religions to grades 7 - 11, including GCSE AND A levels
- Led the creation of a students’ interfaith spiritual space; assisted with expansion of a religious education resource centre

EQUITY, DIVERSITY and INCLUSION EXPERIENCE

Doctors without Borders - Medecins Sans Frontieres
Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, & The Netherlands

May 2020-Present

DIVERSITY AND ANTI-RACISM SPECIALIST CONSULTANT

- Designed multi layer workshops surrounding unconscious bias, privilege, micro aggressions and race based trauma
- Created and delivered over 70 workshops for international clients
- Worked over 600 peoples in groups of 20.
- Delivered workshops using technological platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Blue Jeans and Zoom
- Created specialized workshops for HR units and Complaint units.

Edexcel, Pearson Group, London, UK & Montreal, QC

Apr 2003 - Present

SPECIALIST EXAMINER IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

- Mark over 600 GCSE examinations annually; awarded a professional rating of excellence for marking abilities
- Promoted within two years to the position of Specialist Examiner

St James’ United Church, Montreal, Quebec

September 2019 - Present

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

- Create lesson plans in line with the beliefs of the Church
- Discuss elements of social justice in action

The Centre of Civic Religious Literacy

November 2018 - Present

CO-FOUNDER - EDUCATION DIRECTOR - CONSULTANT

- Co-founded a non-profit organization dedicated to civic and religious dialogue
- Consult on educational program involving students from the ages 5-19 years old

COMMUNITY AND ACTIVISM INVOLVEMENT

MEES Committee for English Education	SPEAKER	November 2020
QPAT Anti Racism Committee	CONSULTANT	September 2020-Present
Webinar - Hogan’s Alley to Africville	SPEAKER	November 2020
West Island Black Community Association Town Hall	SPEAKER	September 2020
Cote Des Neiges Webinar Parents’ Workshop	PRESENTER	September 2020
A Long Walk Home March	SPEAKER	August 2020
Bill/Law 21 Government Hearings, Montreal, QC	ACTIVIST	March 2019-Present
Access Committee Meeting for Anglophones in Health	COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER	November 2019-Present
Westhaven Community Centre, Montreal, QC	COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER	Jan 2014 - Present
Youth in Motion, Montreal, QC	BOARD MEMBER	Sep 2006 - Present

- Develop educational programs for at risk students; solicit local businesses for donations

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion	Member	2016 - Present
American Academy of Religion (AAR)	Member	2015 - Present
Religious Education Association (REA)	Member	2013 - Present
Montreal Teacher's Union (MTA)	Member	2006 - Present
McGill's Black Student Network	Member	1997 - Present

RECENT HONOURS & AWARDS

ByBlacks.com	Activist of the Year Award	2019
Prime Minister's Office	Awards for Teaching Excellence - Certificate of Achievement	2018
Westmount High School	Vera Jamieson Award for Outstanding Dedication in Education	2016
McGill University	DISE Outstanding Teaching Award	2016
	DISE Nomination Professor of the Year	2015
	DISE Educator-Practitioner Award	2015
	DISE Outstanding Graduate Award	2014
Montreal Community Cares	Community Leadership Award	2014
International Conference on Religion	Graduate Scholar Award	2014
Concordia University	Andre P. Gervais Graduate Scholarship	2009
	The Garvey Institute Scholarship	2009
The Hecht Foundation	Teaching of the Holocaust Award	2009
Black History Month Roundtable	Selected Featured Candidate	2007

PUBLICATIONS

Articles Published

Jafralie, S.N. and Zaver, A. (2019). Teaching Religious Education: The Ethics and Religious Culture Program as Case Study. FIRE: Forum for International Research in Education.

Chan, W. Y. A., Mistry, H., Zaver, A., Reid, E. & Jafralie, S. (2019). Recognition of context and experience: A civic-based Canadian conception of religious literacy. *Journal of Beliefs and Values*.

Jafralie, S.N. (2011). The new South African Dream: Forgiveness and reconciliation. Lecture session presented at the Hawaii International Conference on Education (pp.87 and CD ROM ISSN #1541-5880), Honolulu, HI.

Opinion Editorials

Jafralie, S. (2019). "Facing Bill 21 In The Classrooms: Silence is not an Option for the Future." (Op-Ed). https://www.crrf-fcrr.ca/images/Sabrina_Jafralie_Bill_21_Op-ed_v2.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3dgosrRy-UygDQoNKyjf-OrgKDJolriwLJE7G5xnZNSIDwk994fHI-5bM

Jafralie, S. (2018). "Montreal teacher has a message for the CAQ: 'I teach, I do not convert'" *CBC News*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/montreal-teacher-has-a-message-for-the-caq-i-teach-i-do-not-convert-1.4883129>

Zaver, A., Chan, W. Y. A., Jafralie, S. (2017). "Opinion: Concordia bomb scare shows need for religious literacy." *Montreal Gazette*.

Media Appearances

Don't Give Me that Old Time Religion - Quebec to Move Away from ERC

Jan 15, 2020 CBC Radion Noon - <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-102-radio-noon-montreal/clip/15755689-dont-give-me-that-old-time-religion-quebec-to-move-away-from-the-erc-course>
fbclid=IwAR01t1iOUH37PbgUZ37lOYGGWp4MHNMDsmkDfcZeeChdbdynx7_cjA1JLcl

Media Spotlight: Dr. Sabrina Jafralie Comments of Proposed ERC Reform (2019)

<https://mcgill.ca/channels/channels/news/media-spotlight-dr-sabrina-jafralie-comments-proposed-erc-reform-304057>

Reviewing

Reviewer for the McGill Journal of Education (MJE) 2013-present

Research interests include: the Ethics and Religious Culture (ERC) program and the challenges of the religion competency, the current ERC teacher training, religion in public schools, effective classroom management techniques for pre-service teachers and the rise of digital literacy in secondary schools

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS & PRESENTATIONS

Jafralie, S.N. (2019, December). Interfaith Panel. Panel discussion presented for McGill University, Montreal, QC.

Jafralie, S.N. (2019, December). Human Rights - Living Ensemble. Round Table session presented for Canadian Race Relations. Montreal, QC.

Jafralie, S.N. (2019, November). Bill 21 and Teaching in Quebec. Presentation session presented for CCRL. Montreal, QC.

Jafralie, S.N. (2019, June). The Centre for Civic Religious Literacy. Panel session presented at the CSSR Conference. Vancouver, BC.

Jafralie, S.N. (2016, November). The Challenges of Secondary ERC School Teacher. Paper session presented at the Religious Education Association. Pittsburgh, PA.

Jafralie, S.N. (2016, March). Fostering Religious Literacy in North American Secondary Schools. Panel session presented at the Canadian International Education and Society. Vancouver, BC.

Jafralie, S.N. (2015, May). Close to Home: Quebec's Ethics and Religious Culture Program. Panel session presented at the Eastern International Region of American Academy of Religion, Montreal, PQ.

Jafralie, S.N. (2014, May). The State of Quebec's Ethics and Religious Culture Program. Paper presented at the Department of Integrated Studies, DISE Talks, Montreal, PQ.

Jafralie, S.N. (2014, April). The State of Quebec's Ethics and Religious Culture Program. Panel session presented at the 2014 International Conference on Religion and Spirituality, Heredia, CR.

Jafralie, S.N. (2014, January). The State of Quebec's Ethics and Religious Culture Program. Panel session presented at the Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI.

Jafralie, S.N. (2013, November). The State of Quebec's Ethics and Religious Culture Program. Colloquium paper presented at the Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

Jafralie, S.N. (2013, January). Teaching ethics and religious culture in the classroom: Fostering critical thinking. Panel session presented at the Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI.

Jafralie, S.N. (2012, November). How to Approach Education and Religious Education. Lecture session presented at the second annual Women's Forum for the Deputy of Pierrefonds-Dollard, Lysane Blanchette, Pierrefonds, QC.

Jafralie, S.N. (2012, January). The New South African Dream: Forgiveness and Reconciliation. Lecture session presented at the annual Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI.

Jafralie, S.N. (2008, February). Afrocentric School Proposal. A member of the panel speaking at the McGill's Black Student's Network's panel series, Montreal, QC.

Jafralie, S.N. (2006, May). Our Community's Resources. Speaker at the McGill's Black Student Network's conference, "Visions of Tomorrow, Beacons that light the path", Montreal, QC.

REFERENCES

Dr. Ronald Morris

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3700 McTavish Street
Montreal, Quebec, H3A 1Y2
Email: ronald.morris@mcgill.ca

Dr. Arzina Zaver

Colleague - ITREB CANADA
Email: arzinaz@gmail.com

Dr. Alice Chan

Executive Director - The Centre for Civic Religious Literacy
Email: ac@ccrl-clrc.ca

Dr. Kevin McDonough - PhD Committee Member

Associate Professor, McGill University
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