

## Conference Presentations

- McRae, H. (2009, June). *Exploring university continuing education's role in civic engagement*. Paper presented at the annual meeting, Lifelong Learning Revisited: What Next? Centre for Research in Lifelong Learning, Stirling, Scotland.
- McRae, H. (2008, May). *In search of common space: Exploring university continuing education's role in civic engagement*. Poster session presented at the Community-University Exposition (CUexpo), Victoria, BC
- McRae, H. (2008, February). *Exploring the relationship between the university and the community in building a civil society*. Paper presented at the fifth international conference on Citizenship and Governance: Re-visioning Social Transformation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, New Delhi, India
- McRae, H. (2007, May). *In search of common space: Exploring adult education's role in civic engagement activities within the academy*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

## Book Review

- McRae, H. (2009). [Review of the book *The purposes of adult education: A short introduction*]. *Canadian Journal of University Continuing Education*, 35(1) 70-71.



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
THINKING OF THE WORLD

## FACULTY OF EDUCATION

### ORAL EXAMINATION **HEATHER McRAE**

FOR THE DEGREE OF

### DOCTOR OF EDUCATION EdD

**Wednesday, December 16, 2009**  
**SFU Vancouver (Room 1525) at 2:00 PM**

#### EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Chair:	Dr. Geoff Madoc-Jones
Senior Supervisor:	Dr. John LaBrie
Member:	Dr. Budd Hall
Member:	Dr. Tom Nesbit
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External Examiner:	Dr. Walter Archer
	University of Alberta
	Faculty of Extension

## IN SEARCH OF COMMON SPACE: EXPLORING UNIVERSITY CONTINUING EDUCATION'S ROLE IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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### ABSTRACT

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This qualitative case study explored the experiences and perceptions of community and university members relating to their participation in collaborations for the social good. A review of the literature on civic engagement provided the context for examining the ideas and issues of 15 representatives from three different professional groups: university continuing education (UCE), community-based research (CBR) and community organizations (CO).

The theoretical views of two contemporary social theorists guided the development of this study. Habermas' theory of communicative action provided the framework for identifying the research questions, designing the data collection instruments and analyzing the data. Taylor's notion of common space offered a way to view community-university partnerships through providing a lens for understanding how different groups can collaborate to influence positive social change.

The study findings suggest that currently only representatives from CBR and CO share common space in collaborations that support the social good. Based on my analysis of the data, the professional organizational model of UCE with its emphasis on cost-recovery vocational programming is one of the limiting factors affecting the involvement of UCE staff members in community-university partnerships.

This research study offers new insights about the role of UCE practitioners in facilitating the civic engagement initiatives of the university. Strategies to reframe the role of UCE within the university include the development of a civic engagement model for UCE practitioners that incorporates aspects of their historical and current practices, provides a lens for initiating new discussions, and includes social measurement tools to acknowledge their contributions to

community-university partnerships. Expanding the concept of common space to include involvement from representatives of national service and funding organizations could increase opportunities for knowledge mobilization and encourage the development of partnerships and research collaborations that support the social good.

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### Academic Record

1992 – Master of Science, Leisure Studies and Services, University of Oregon  
1979 – Bachelor of Recreation Education, University of British Columbia

### Professional Experience

2004 – Present	Program Director, Arts and Science Programs, Division of Continuing Studies, University of Victoria
1993 – 2004	Manager of Continuing Education, Faculty of Adult and Continuing Education, Okanagan University College
1988 – 1993	Cultural and Social Programmer, Division of Student Services, Okanagan University College
1987 – 1988	Chair and Instructor, Activity Aide Program, Faculty of Health and Human Services, Okanagan University College
1984 – 1987	Recreation Therapist, Penticton Regional Hospital
1982 – 1984	Recreation Therapist, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, Edmonton
1979 – 1982	Recreation Therapist, Valleyview Hospital, Shaughnessy Hospital