

CURRICULUM VITAE: DR. SYLVIA SOLOMON (BERESKIN)

**NAME:**

Sylvia R. Solomon [www.sylviasolomon.com](http://www.sylviasolomon.com); [drsylviasolomon@gmail.com](mailto:drsylviasolomon@gmail.com)

Languages (English, Hebrew, some French)

**DEGREES:**

Doctor of Education	Special Education, University of Toronto, 1985
Master of Education	Special Education, University of Western Ontario, 1979
Program of Teacher Education	University of Western Ontario, 1976
Bachelor of Education	University of Western Ontario, 1973

TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) certification	Conestoga College 2009
Principal's Qualifications, Part II	OISE/UT, 2003
Principal's Qualifications, Part I	York University, 2002
Supervisory Officer's Qualifications	Ontario Principal's Council, 1999
Senior Division, Individual & Society	Queen's University, 1992
Special Education Specialist	Ontario Ministry of Ed'n, 1984
Special Education, Part II	Ontario Ministry of Ed'n, 1984
Special Education, Part I	Ontario Ministry of Ed'n, 1976
Primary/Junior/Intermediate Certification	Ontario Ministry of Ed'n, 1976

**HONOURS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Canadian Race Relations Foundation: Award of Excellence 2010 for development of *Choose Your Voice* – a 4 lesson curriculum unit for Grades 6,7, 8 focusing on antiracism
- Prix REALM Award as coordinator of the English Language Learner Lead Team – in recognition of excellence and achievement in the Learning Ministries, 2007
- Chosen to participate in the Summer of Hope Literacy Camp, Moose Cree, Ontario, 2006
- Senior consultant, Alipta Corporation, 2003 – present
- Member, Modern Language Advisory Committee, OISE/UT, 2003 - 2008
- Chosen to lead the Holocaust and Hope Educator's Tour for Aboriginal educators, League for Human Rights, 2003
- Chosen to coordinate the Bartica, Guyana education project, Ve'ahavta, 2003
- Educational project coordinator for Kosovo, International Children's Institute, 1999 / 2000
- Consultant to Ministries of Education in Kosovo and Albania, 1999 / 2000
- Consultant to Building Bridges Program, International Children's Institute, 1999
- Chosen to visit *Trees for Life* schools in China, Trees for Life Canada, 1999
- Chair, President's Task Force on Rights, Respect and Responsibility, Trent University, 1993
- Shirley Stokes Fellowship for Women's Studies, Federation of Women Teachers of Ontario, 1990
- Chair, Director's Reference Group on Alienated Youth, Toronto School Board, 1998 - 1990
- William Pakenham Fellowship in Education, University of Toronto, 1988

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:**

### **Elementary/Secondary Teaching**

2011 - 1993 – 1994	Supply teaching – all grades – Downtown Jewish Community School Teacher, Crestwood Secondary School, Peterborough County Board of Education (Society, Challenge & Change, OAC Politics, Drama)
1990 – 1992	Jewish Studies teacher, Downtown Jewish Community School
1985 – 1990	Teacher, Ryerson Public School, Toronto School Board (Gifted Grade 7/8 program)
1983 – 1985	Teacher, Church Street Public School, Toronto School Board (junior behavioural class)
1980 – 1983	Teacher, Jesse Ketchum Public School, Toronto School Board (senior behavioural class)
1977 – 1980	Teacher, Sir John A. MacDonald Public School, London Board of Education (Grade 3 – 8 adjustment and learning disabilities class)

### **Post-secondary teaching**

2011	Course Instructor, Masters in Early Childhood Studies, Ryerson University – <b>Theoretical Frameworks for Early Childhood Studies</b>
2010	Course Instructor, Masters in Early Childhood Studies, Ryerson University – <b>Families &amp; Educational Equity</b>
2009	Course Instructor, Masters in Early Childhood Studies, Ryerson University - <b>Theoretical Foundations</b> of Early Childhood Studies
2007 - 2009	Course instructor, Masters in Early Childhood Studies, Ryerson University - <b>Social Justice in Education</b>
2000 – 2005	Course director, Faculty of Education, York University - Special Education - Models of Education, pilot online course
July 1998 – Aug 2003	Adjunct professor, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto - Special Education – Critical Issues - Gifted Education
1990 – 1993	Assistant Professor, Trent-Queen’s Concurrent Teacher Education Program, Trent University - Foundations of Education - Seminar in Social Class, Race and Gender Issues in Education - Special Education - Student teacher supervision / mentorship
1981 – 1984	Instructor, Faculty of Education, University of Toronto - Special Education
1979 – 1980	Instructor, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario - Special Education

## Ontario Ministry of Education

June 2002 – Oct 2008	Education Officer, Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch – provincial lead for ESL/ELD (retired Oct 31, 2008)
Dec 2007	Planned and coordinated the symposium <i>From The Roots Up: Supporting English language learners in every classroom</i>
May 2007	Private School Inspector, - inspecting schools in Jinhua, Quanzhou and Nanjing China
Jan 2006 – June 2006	Student Achievement Officer, The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat - initiating <i>Schools On The Move</i> project
Jan 2002 – June 2002	Education Officer, Ontario Knowledge Network for Learning – established an online gifted e-learning centre
Sept 2000 – Dec 2001	Education Officer, Special Education Program Standards Unit – developed program standards for Gifted Education and participated in policy development supporting all exceptionalities
March 1995 – Aug 2000	Education Officer, Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch – coordinated writing of new secondary curriculum in all subject/discipline areas
March 1994 – Feb 1995	Education Officer, Teacher Education Policy Unit – response to the Royal Commission on Learning and development of policy to establish the Ontario College of Teachers

## **Community Involvement:**

- 2004 – 2011 Choir participant (Common Thread Chorus, Miles Nadal JCC Community Chorus)
- 2009 Lead Youth Conference organizer, Ontario Red Cross
- 2009 Disaster Response Volunteer and H1N1 vaccination clinic volunteer – Canadian Red Cross
- 2007 - Board member, Wychwood Open Door Drop-in Centre
- 2007 - Department of Peace initiative, Toronto
- 2004 - Founder, Grandmothers for Peace, Toronto
- 2003 - Registered participant; Sam Gindin Chair in Social Justice and Democracy group
- 2003 Chair – Holocaust Education Committee, League for Human Rights
- 2002 Coordinated education/teacher-training program and delivered it in Bartica, Guyana (for Ve’ahavta)
- 2001- Out of the Cold volunteer
- 1999 Volunteer with Red Cross, Base Borden (with refugees from Kosovo)
- 1985 – 1990 Choir leader, Downtown Jewish Community School (also coordinated the Zimriyah for several years during that time)
- 1985 – 1990 Coached a girl’s softball team, Ryerson Public School
- 1985 – 1990 Published a student newspaper, Ryerson Public School
- 1993 – 95 Community Advisory Board, Women’s Health Care Centre, Civic Hospital, Peterborough
- 1992 – 95 Board member, Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives
- 1989 – 90 Consultant to Fresh Perspectives – a newspaper published and written by and for secondary students

### Sample of Keynote Addresses and Workshops:

- November 2011 – Working with Gifted students in Jewish Supplementary Schools. Merkaz – 2  
1hr workshops
- November 2011 – How can a Supplementary School meet the needs of all exceptional students?  
It's easy ... if you just want to do it! Merkaz – 2.5 hour workshop
- Oct 2010 – *Aren't All Children Special? Special Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.* Association of  
International Schools in Africa conference & All Africa School Leaders Retreat,  
Nairobi, Kenya.
- Nov 2010 – *Including all children: Yes, It Can Be Done!* Teacher/administrator workshop,  
Merkaz, Toronto.
- Dec 2009 *Meeting the needs of all of your students: You can do it!* Workshop, Merkaz,  
Toronto.  
▪ 1.5 hour workshop with classroom teachers
- Oct 2009 *Our World, Your Move: Youth Taking Action for Humanity.* Keynote to Ontario  
Zone Red Cross Youth Conference.
- May 2009 *Educating for Change.* Keynote to Ottawa Community Council on Ethnocultural  
Equity.  
▪ Included a 1-hour follow-up Question and Answer session
- May 2009 *Inclusive Education in a Climate of Change.* Keynote to Ottawa-Carleton DSB  
English Language Learner Forum.  
▪ Included a 1-hour follow-up workshop focusing on making changes in our  
schools and classrooms
- Feb 2009 *Social Justice in Education: Time for Real Change.* Keynote to Hamilton  
TESL/Link conference.
- April 2009 *Teaching that will make a difference.* Keynote to GrandErie DSB conference.
- Dec 2007 Introduction to a comprehensive K-12 policy for English language learners, *From  
The Roots Up* symposium
- 2006 – 07 *Holocaust Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century,* General Romeo Dallaire Genocide Institute
- 2003 *Dreaming About a School for Peace,* Education for Peace conference, University of  
Ottawa
- 2000 – 01 *Kosovo: The Challenge of Making Real Peace.* In various locations across Ontario
- 2000 – 01 *Meeting the needs of exceptional students (special education).* In various locations  
across Ontario.
- 2000 – 01 *Gifted Program Standards: Meeting the needs of gifted students in our schools .* In  
various locations across Ontario
- 1992 *There's really nothing new under the teacher's sun: The role of the teacher in the  
1990s.* University of Manitoba – Multicultural, Anti-racist and Aboriginal Education  
conference
- 1992 *Mothers, Mentors, and Models: The 3Ms of women's achievement.* University of  
Winnipeg – Women-focused research conference.

- 1991 *Achieving Multicultural Education Goals in Urban Schools.* Centre for Urban Education, St. Peter’s University, New Jersey.
- 1991 *Become aware of unearned privilege.* Enhancing the Quality of Teaching in Colleges and Universities conference, Charleston, South Carolina.
- 1990 *What keeps some students from achieving.* Resistance 1990 conference, OISE.
- 1982 – 83 *Dealing effectively with children’s intellectual and emotional needs – a workshop series.* Sudbury-Algoma Hospital, Sudbury.

**GRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT:**

- Fall 2009 - 2011 Theoretical Frameworks in Education, Ryerson University
- 2007 - 2008 Social Justice in Education, Ryerson University
- 1998 – 2003 Gifted Education. OISE
- Critical Issues in Special Education. OISE

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Life-time summary:**

Chapters in books.....	2
Papers in refereed journals.....	4
Professional resources .....	2
Government resources .....	5
Other publications .....	3
Workshops and keynotes .....	50+

**Publication details:**

**Sample of Publications** (Note: during my tenure at the Ministry of Education publication was not permitted )

**Books:**

Solomon, S. (2012 – in print). *For The First Time: Women Retiring with Gusto.* Oscar’s Press, Vancouver.

**Chapters in books:**

Solomon, S. (1996). Women Who Didn’t Disappear: The Voice of Eminent Canadian Women. In Uma Parameswaran (Ed.), *Quilting a New Canon*, Sister Vision Press, Toronto, pp 165 – 178.

Solomon, S. (1990). Necessary and Sufficient Conditions: The Lives of Nine Eminent Canadian Women. In Ellis, Julie and Wilinski, John (Eds)., *Girls, Woman and Giftedness.* Trillium Press, New York.

### **Papers in refereed journals:**

Solomon, S. (1999). *Telling the Stories of Life: A Mother's Memories, a Daughter's Reflection*. Canadian Children's Literature, (v 95).

Solomon, S. (June 1993). *Same Script, Different Page: The Role of the Teacher in Canada Today*. Education Canada.

Solomon, S. (September 1992). *The Silent Voice of Women: Does it Have to Come from Space to be Heard?* English Quarterly, McGill University.

### **Professional resources:**

Bereskin, S., O'Reilly, P., Sherri, D., and Akerman, K. (2005) *Choose Your Voice - Antisemitism in Canada: A Teacher's Guide for Grades 6, 7 and 8*. Fighting Antisemitism Together (FAST) and Canadian Jewish Congress. Toronto.

The International Children's Institute (2000). *Psychological Trauma Training Programs; Parts 1, 2 and 3*. Toronto. Developed as part of a team working in Kosovo and Sarajevo.

Solomon, S. (1989). *The Delightful Task! Independent Learning and You*. Toronto Board of Education.

### **Government resources:**

Ontario Ministry of Education (2007). *Supporting English language learners in Kindergarten: A practical guide for Ontario educators*.

Ontario Ministry of Education (2007). *English language learners / ESL and ELD Programs and Services: Policies and Procedures for Ontario Elementary and Secondary Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12*

Ontario Ministry of Education (2006). *TIPS for English language learners in Mathematics*.

Ontario Ministry of Education (2005). *Many Roots, Many Voices: Supporting English language learners in every classroom*.

Bereskin, S. (2005). *Praxis Revisited: Second-language Learning in Ontario's Elementary School system*. Ontario Ministry of Education

### **Other publications:**

Bereskin, S. (in process). *Holocaust and Hope: Poetry of my missing past*.

Solomon, S. (2000). *The Courage of Teachers*. Professionally Speaking, Toronto.

Solomon, S. (2000). She's 50 – She Climbed Kilimanjaro. Journeywoman Online (<http://www.journeywoman.com/olderadv/kilimanjaro.html> )

## REFERENCES:

Judith K. Bernhard, Ph.D.  
Professor and Director of Graduate Program  
Department of Early Childhood Education, Ryerson University  
[bernhard@ryerson.ca](mailto:bernhard@ryerson.ca)

Jim Cummins, Ph.D.  
Professor and Canada Research Chair  
Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning Department, OISE/UT  
[jcummins@oise.utoronto.ca](mailto:jcummins@oise.utoronto.ca)

Julie Williams  
Acting Director, Special Education Policy and Programs Branch  
Ontario Ministry of Education  
[Julie.williams@ontario.ca](mailto:Julie.williams@ontario.ca)