



*Understanding the Connections
Among Creativity, Spirituality and Wholeness,
and Their Significance
for Teaching, Learning and Living*

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Abstract:

This symposium will initiate an inquiry into the relationship that exists, can exist and should exist between creativity and spirituality, and the significance of looking at creativity and spirituality from holistic perspectives. The panelists will explore these relationships in light of their own scholarly research and artistic and teaching practices, and they will underscore the significance of understanding these relationships for teaching, learning and living. The key questions that the panelists will explore in this symposium include the following:

- How are creativity, spirituality and wholeness connected?
- What is the significance of exploring and understanding these notions in relation to each other? For instance, how does seeing creativity as linked with spirituality and wholeness result in a more fulsome understanding of creativity?
- How might understanding the interconnections between creativity, spirituality and wholeness impact how we teach, learn and live?
- How may we introduce ourselves and our students to the inter-relatedness of creativity, spirituality and a notion of wholeness? Why is doing so important?

Keywords: creativity; spirituality; wholeness; teaching; learning

Biographical Notes

Ashwani Kumar is an associate professor at Mount Saint Vincent University, where he teaches and conducts research in fields of curriculum studies, holistic education and philosophy of education. He is the author of *Curriculum as Meditative Inquiry* (2013) and *Curriculum in International Contexts: Understanding Colonial, Ideological, and Neoliberal Influences* (2019).

Rita L. Irwin is Distinguished University Scholar and Professor of Art Education at the University of British Columbia, Canada. She is an award-winning educator and scholar best known for her work in a/r/tography, teacher education, curriculum studies and socio-cultural concerns.

Vicki Kelly is Anishinaabe/Métis and an Indigenous scholar in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University. She works in the areas of Indigenous education as well as art, environmental, health and contemplative education. Her research focuses are: Indigenous knowledges, pedagogies, cultural resurgence, two-eyed seeing and education for reconciliation.

Pauline Sameshima is a professor and the Canada Research Chair in Arts-Integrated Studies at Lakehead University. She is a curriculum theorist who works across the science and humanities fields on large research projects with a particular interest in mobilizing research, learning across broad audiences and innovating university-community learning collaborations.

Celeste Snowber, PhD is a dancer, poet and award-winning educator who is a professor in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University. She has published widely and is the author of *Embodied Inquiry*, *Wild Tourist* and a co-author of *Blue Waiting*, a collection of poetry. Celeste continues to create site-specific performances in the natural world.