

THOMAS W. KERTES

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Thomas is an early childhood educator who teaches high school in Prince Rupert, BC at Charles Hays Secondary School, in the territory of the Ts'msyen. He teaches English 9 and English First Peoples 11. Thomas also coaches the student-led Rainmakers Debate Team – helping the team achieve its mission of “raising our voices to mend relationships with the land”. Trained in the practices of child observation (dialogue as mutual listening), documentation (making learning visible), and teaching as a process of co-constructive scholarship (led by student and teacher alike), Thomas applies early childhood education practices to high school literacy and leadership education, through the co-construction of culture and power with teenage students.

Education

<i>MEd</i> Educational Leadership	Vancouver Island University , Nanaimo, BC Thesis: <i>Why teach with integrity in public education?</i> Advisor: Scott Priestman	2017-2018
<i>BEd</i> Environmental Education	Simon Fraser University , Burnaby, BC Indigenous Perspectives in Education	2015
<i>Diploma (ECE)</i> + Infant/Toddler Certificate	Langara College , Vancouver, BC <i>Graduation with Distinction</i>	2009-2010
<i>Graduate Studies</i> Developmental Psychology and Education	University of Toronto/OISE , Toronto, ON Ontario Institute for Studies in Education Institute of Child Study Human Development and Applied Psychology Advisor: Dale Shipley	2008-2009
<i>BA</i> Psychology	University of Washington , Seattle, WA <i>Zesbaugh Scholar, Dean's List</i> + University of Guadalajara, Guadalajara (2002)	2001-2003
<i>AAS</i> Assoc. in Arts and Sciences	Olympic College , Bremerton, WA	2000-2001

Honours and Awards

Community of Leadership Innovations (2012-2013), Early Childhood Educators of BC Leadership Institute, *The Value of Child Care Project*

- The institute was a project sponsored by Vancity Community Foundations and run by Early Childhood Educators of BC
- The project was a partnership of BCGEU, Liberation Learning Project, and the Vancouver Reggio Consortium, and was led by a team of three early childhood educators (Kyle Beauliv, Ward Nakata, and me) at University of British Columbia Child Care Services
- I helped the project engage with over 500 educators through a series of praxis dialogues on the value of childcare, a town hall forum on equality and childcare, and a culminating professional development conference
- Project documentation: https://youtu.be/Kzh_2zvPKMg?si=WzpUepmNMnio8aCj

Zesbaugh Scholar (2002-2003), University of Washington (Seattle), College of Education

- This was a full-tuition undergraduate research scholarship administered by the College of Education
- I worked with advisors Tom Stritikus and Manka Varghese and helped collect data for the study *Los primeros años: The first years in school for Latino and Latina students*
- My work on the study included assisting with human subjects' approval, conducting structured observations at a public elementary school, and transcription of audio recordings (in Spanish and English)
- I also conducted an independent research project with structured observations of how students in a Spanish immersion program (in a majority English-as-home-language school) used the program's target language (Spanish) across the school day (in both formal and informal settings)

Teaching Experience – Post Secondary Education

Sessional Instructor, Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology (2008), Toronto, ON, Early Childhood Education courses:

- Introduction to Childhood Development
- Field Placement Supervisor

Presenter, Seattle Pacific University (SFU) and Spitzer and Smith Consulting (1998-2000), Seattle, WA, Continuing education courses accredited by SFU included:

- Reader's Way – Know the Code: Teaching reading (accredited continuing education workshop for K-2 teachers)
- Reader's Way – Sound Town: Phonemic awareness and early reading instruction (accredited continuing education workshop for PK-1 teachers)

Teaching Experience – K-12 Public Education

Teacher, Charles Hays Secondary School (CHSS) and Prince Rupert Middle School (PRMS) (2018-current), Prince Rupert, BC, Prince Rupert School District (SD52), Subjects taught include English and Drama, Grades 7, 8, 9, 11, English Department Head at CHSS, Advisor/coach of the PRMS/CHSS Debate Team and co-advisor of the PRMS Ama Goot, Ama T'ilgoolsk (Grade 8 Leadership Council)

Teacher, Gidgalang Kuuyas Naay (GKNS), Sk'aadga Naay, and Tahayghen Elementary School (2015-2018), Daajing Giids, BC, Subjects taught include English and Drama, Grades K/1, 4/5, 8, 9, 11, 12, Advisor of Outdoor Club and Student Council at GKNS

Teaching Experience – ECE and Community Organizing

Early Childhood Educator, University of British Columbia Child Care (2010-2013), Vancouver, BC, Toddler and preschooler care provider (ages one year to five years)

Executive Director, Pike Market Child Care (2003), Seattle, WA, Director of non-profit childcare centre in downtown Seattle (ages two years to six years)

Early Childhood Educator, Children's Garden Preschool (1997-2000), Silverdale, WA, Preschool and kindergarten teacher (ages three years to six years)

Director of Learning Services, Puget Sound Learning (1994-2000), Silverdale, WA, Reading and writing specialist (ages four years to twelve years)

Community Organizer, Liberation Learning Project (2010-2015), Vancouver, BC, Grassroots organization of early childhood educators, families, and other childcare providers that provided workshops and community forums on the value of childcare, including professional development programs by and for licensed early childhood educators

Community Organizer, United Workers Association / School of Labor / University of the Poor (2005-2010), Baltimore, MD, Grassroots organization of day labourers and other low-wage workers that organized for work with dignity and living wages for all workers

Policy Experience

Committee Member, Professional Issues Advisory Committee, BC Teachers' Federation (2018-2020), Vancouver, BC, Provincial advisory committee on professional matters, appointed by and reporting to the Executive Committee of the BC Teachers' Federation

Policy and Communications Advisor, College of Early Childhood Educators (CECE) (2009-2010), Toronto, ON, CECE is Ontario's self-regulatory college of early educators – the first in North America – as policy advisor I wrote policy briefs and helped develop policy for the college during and immediately after its transitional period (during the start-up phase of the CECE)

Presentation and Keynote Experience – Highlights

Overcoming barriers: High expectation projects that every student can complete (2019), Symposium Learning Transformation, Coast Mountain College, Terrace, BC

Keynote – *Play-based teaching and learning in the early to primary years* (2015), Early Learning Forum, Haida Gwaii School District (SD50), Skidegate, BC

Children as co-constructors of culture: Listening to children's own reflections on the process of cultural co-construction (2014), University of British Columbia Interprofessional Continuing Education and Human Early Learning Partnership, Early Years Conference 2014: Shaping Childhood – Factors that Matter

Respect: Recognizing children's power (2014), Child Care Options Professional Development, Surrey, BC

Keynote – *How children's empowerment changes everything* (2014), Exploration and Discovery Conference, Sunshine Coast Child Care Resource and Referral, Sechelt, BC

Setting boundaries and empowering children: Supporting and guiding children positively (2014), Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia (ECEBC) 43rd Annual Conference, Richmond, BC

Making history together: Developing our capacity as co-leaders in the movement for universal childcare (2013), Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia (ECEBC) 42nd Annual Conference, Richmond, BC

Capturing complexity: Frameworks reflecting the true complexity of the child's inquiry (2012), International Innovations in ECE: A Canadian Forum on Early Childhood Frameworks, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC

ECE learning circles on reading, storytelling activism, and mathematics (2011), Liberation Learning Project, Victoria, Vancouver, and Nanaimo, BC

Making sense of brain research (2011), Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia (ECEBC) 40th Annual Conference, Richmond, BC (2011)

Keynote – *Sacrifice and victory: The history and now of sacrifice and victory for human rights* (2006), Dickinson College, The Clarke Center, Co-Presenter: Carl Johnson (United Workers Association), Carlisle, PA

Benchmarks and children (2005), Washington Association for the Education of Young Children (WAEYC) 29th Annual Conference, Bellevue, WA

With liberty and justice for all (2004), Washington Association for the Education of Young Children (WAEYC) 28th Annual Conference, Bellevue, WA

Professional Articles

Why the OECD's education agenda matters to students, communities, and teachers in British Columbia (2019), BC Teachers' Federation Research Report: "Navigating" transformation: Education 2030, teachers' unions, and spaces of resistance

Professional Affiliations

Certificate Holder, Professional Certificate of Qualification, Ministry of Education and Child Care (British Columbia) (2015-current)

Certificate Holder, Early Childhood Educator Certificate (Infant and Toddler Educator), ECE Registry (British Columbia) (2010-2015 – expired)

Member, Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC) (2010-2015)

Member, Washington Association for the Education of Young Children (WAEYC) (2003-2004)

Professional Service

Vice President, Prince Rupert District Teachers' Union (PRDTU) (an affiliate of the BC Teachers' Federation) and other PRDTU Executive Committee positions (2019-2023), Prince Rupert, BC

President, North Coast Labour Council (NCLC) and other NCLC positions (2020-2023), Prince Rupert, BC

Board Member, Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC) (2015) Vancouver, BC

Treasurer, Washington Association for the Education of Young Children (WAEYC) (2004), Kent, WA