



Dr. Keith Wilkinson, JIBC Research Associate

BEd (UofA, 1966), MEd (Educational Psychology, UofA, 1967), PhD (Interdisciplinary Studies, UBC, 1976)

Keith Wilkinson's professional and academic life has been characterized by diversity, curiosity and practicality. He served at JIBC from 1999 to 2011 in a variety of management roles including Registrar, Director of Student Services, and Director of Graduate Studies and Academic Services. He was instrumental in helping to develop JIBC's first integrated student record system, overseeing standards for new programs across divisions, supporting JIBC's bachelor and masters degree initiatives and assisting in root cause analysis and customer feedback processes in JIBC's continuous quality improvement program. From 1993 to 1999, he worked as a private consultant providing educational, applied research and planning support to a range of private and public service organizations including many of JIBC's Schools and Divisions.

Prior to working in the public safety sector, Keith served for 15 years in the health care sector as Director of Education Services at University Hospital and at Children's, Grace and Shaughnessy Shared Hospital Services where he was responsible for developing and managing professional education programs for all health care practitioners, support staff and managers as well as for developing extensive patient education programs and materials.

Prior to these roles Keith worked as a researcher for CBC Radio, sessional instructor at the University of Calgary and Kwantlen University College, planner at the Social Planning and Research Council (SPARC) of BC, clinical psychologist in Alberta and public school teacher in Igloolik, Nunavut. He also traveled widely in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Keith earned a Masters Degree in Educational Psychology in 1967 from the University of Alberta that included a descriptive study of residence hall culture. In 1976 he earned his PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies at UBC (educational psychology, anthropology and linguistics) with a thesis titled "Psychosemantic Aspects of Figurative Language", an empirical, multi-disciplinary investigation of how metaphor functions to produce meaning. Keith left the academic realm to engage in applied educational work and through the years continued to pursue his interest in language as a method of inquiry through editing, writing and publishing poetry and micropoetry in a range of journals, small press publications, social media and online.

Keith has also been active for many years in the Unitarian movement in Canada, a movement that takes action to "affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person" and accord "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Keith has served as Treasurer and President of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver and as a national consultant on ministerial transitions for the Canadian Unitarian Council. He is currently engaged with several organizations exploring possibilities for a centre in Metro Vancouver that would bring practitioners of various faiths together with individuals with no spiritual or religious affiliation to enrich the ethical, artistic and spiritual practices of all, and undertake practical work to advance compassion and world peace.

As a Research Associate for JIBC, Keith is interested in working with any JIBC student who has practical goals that may serve these common larger ends.