

Suzanne de la Barre



Education

- **Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, 2012**
Umeå University, Sweden
- **PhD, University of Alberta, 2009**
Doctoral Thesis title: Place identity, guides and sustainable tourism in Canada's Yukon
- **Master's Degree, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, 1991**
Masters Thesis: What to do with "Woman"? A political philosophical enquiry into the concept "woman" and the way it impacts upon policy
- **Bachelor of Arts, University of Ottawa, 1985**
Human Geography, with a specialization in international development

Other credentials:

- Professional Aboriginal Economic Development (PAED) Certification, Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO)
- Community Development Facilitation, Institute of Cultural Affairs, Toronto
- Cultural Interpretation (for heritage and tourism), Interpretation Canada: An Association for Heritage Interpretation

Background

I've called the Yukon my home since 1991, however, Montreal is where it all began for me – and I still call that city my home too! My love affair with "the North" began when I was a child in the 1970s and I spent summers at the Kluane Lake Research Station in western Yukon where my father worked. I would have to say that those summers, along

with Katimavik, a nine-month federally funded youth volunteer service program which I did after high school, really shaped what was to follow for me in my life.

Research Interests/Industry and Practical Experience

As a human geographer, I approach much of my work in tourism with a special consideration for space and place. My research interests include thematic areas such as: place-making and place-marketing, economic and community development, gender and tourism, and tourism in rural and remote regions, Arctic regions. I use a variety of qualitative methodologies to answer research questions that aim to better understand people and their communities and regions, development processes, and tourism. My current Sweden-based and funded research examines tourism in relation to community development and economic diversification in mining intense areas. Alongside my case study in Swedish Lapland, I developed a Yukon case study so that I can also incorporate a comparative analysis. I am concerned with the well-being of peripheral places, and committed to investigating processes and strategies that contribute to enhancing possibility in remote settings. I love the academic world and thrive when I am in the university environment. However, I've been compelled to explore other ways of learning. I've taken many years off in between degrees to find and pursue other kinds of passions, among them: publishing a woman's travel magazine (*SHE travels*), wilderness camp cooking for 15 seasons in remote areas across Canada (treeplanting and mineral exploration camps), and working for several years with refugees in Pakistan, Benin, Ghana and Kenya, and on international and community development projects in Malawi and Zimbabwe. More recently, and after completing my PhD, I worked for two years as a Community Development Advisor with the Yukon Government. I'm extremely pleased to have joined faculty at VIU and I'm already enjoying this next stage of learning!