

RACHAEL BARHAM

Email: rbarham@ssu.ca **Cell:** (506) 321 8232

**Experienced language instructor, spiritual director, retreat facilitator,
travel study program leader, and event planner**

Teaching Career History

2008 – present

Teacher at Saint Stephen's University (SSU), St. Stephen, NB, Canada – I have been teaching French at SSU since 2009 (after co-teaching Church History courses 2008-9), along with courses in Teaching English as a Second Language; Language, Culture, and Identity; and a History/Religious Studies course exploring 'Responses to Religious Difference' for the Europe travel study program, creating all course concepts and syllabi myself.

1998 – 2002

Teacher at The Globe English Centre, Exeter, England – Taught English as a Foreign Language at elementary, pre-intermediate, intermediate, upper-intermediate and advanced levels, in both the Junior and Adult Schools, with students ranging from primary age through teenagers to adult learners. This involved designing diverse curricula, planning informative and cohesive lessons within each course, and delivering classes in an engaging and interactive style appropriate to the age and level of the students.

1995 – 2002

Private Tutor in French, German and English – Taught various individual students during this time, as well as teaching fun after-school French lessons to elementary children with *Le Club Francais* (1997- 99).

1994 – 1995

Language Teacher in Berck-sur-Mer, France – Taught at both the *collège* (ages 11-14) and *lycée* (ages 15-18), offering English language and conversation classes. Lived with a French family in order to totally immerse myself in French language and culture for a year.

Other Career History

2016 – January 2020

Executive Assistant, SSU, St. Stephen, NB – Responsibilities in internal communication and administration, HR, liaison with the board of governors, and planning of Convocation week and other events.

2016 – present

Europe Logistics Co-ordinator and Program Leader, SSU – Responsible for all logistics (transport, accommodation, site visits, local guides), and leading or co-leading the 7-week travel study programs through Western Europe, in the summers of 2011, 2014, 2016, 2017, and 2019.

2015

Europe Program Researcher, SSU – Undertook research into potential itinerary, transportation, and accommodations, to help assess the viability of a new model for the SSU Europe travel study program.

2013 – 2014

Acting Registrar at SSU

2011 – 2012

Assistant Food Services Co-ordinator at SSU – Planned and cooked midday and evening meals for 30-50 people, two days a week, assisted by teams of students.

2008

Bi-lingual Customer Services Advisor for Sitel, Exeter, UK. – Delivered high quality customer service in English and French for the Viagogo company campaign and assisted in the training of other advisors.

Education and Professional Qualifications

Master of Ministry in Spiritual Formation – SSU, St. Stephen, NB, Canada. 2010

Master of Arts (MA) in European Languages and Cultures, with distinction – University of Exeter, UK. 2007

Bachelor of Ministry (Grade A) – SSU, St. Stephen, NB, Canada. 2003

University of Cambridge Cert. Teaching English as a Foreign Language to Adults (CTEFLA) – International Teaching and Training Centre, Bournemouth, UK. 1996

Internationally recognised intensive language teaching course, with theoretical training in grammar and syntax, alongside individual tutoring in lesson planning and delivery, and practical experience of classroom teaching.

Bachelor of Arts (Combined Honours) in French and German (2:1) – University of Exeter, UK. 1996

A four-year undergraduate degree program which included one year of living and working in France, and interdisciplinary studies in French and German language (including historical and regional developments), literature, history, philosophy, politics and culture. This involved translation work, academic research and the development of spoken, aural, reading and writing skills.

'A' Level exams: French (A), German (A), Spanish (A), English Literature (B) – Totton College, Totton, UK. 1992

GCSE level exams: Nine subjects at Grade A, one at Grade B – Hounslow School, Totton, UK. 1990

Additional Training

BioSpiritual Focusing Companionship Education Program (*June – November 2020*)

ASIST Suicide Intervention training (*November 2018*)

Training in Ignatian Spiritual Direction (*2015 – 2017*)

A two-year training program in Ignatian Spiritual Direction facilitated by the Saint John AASEA (Atlantic Association of the Spiritual Exercises Apostolate). “Distance” reading and assignments were combined with formation weekends, and a practicum year under supervision, including retreat-planning/-leading experiences.

Weekend workshops on the Enneagram (psycho-spiritual personality system) – *in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2019* – in Waterville, ME, Calais, ME, and Niagara Falls, ON, accompanied by extensive personal reading and research.

NCFE Cert. Life Coaching (*2004*) – This six-month modular program helped to develop the skills and understanding to support individuals in defining and reaching their personal learning and development goals.

Additional Skills and Experience

Spiritual Direction and Contemplative Retreat Facilitation

- Regular, ongoing spiritual direction sessions with individuals seeking accompaniment and support in their spiritual life and development (2012 to present).
- Co-teaching of weekly School of Contemplation sessions at SSU, introducing the philosophy and varied practices of contemplative spirituality (2018 to present).
- Teaching on and facilitating experience in contemplative spirituality for Threshold School of Ministry, Saint John, NB (2018 – 2019).
- Membership since 2011 in Ignatian spiritual directors’ group, the Saint John AASEA (Atlantic Association of the Spiritual Exercises Apostolate), engaged in formation and supervision as a spiritual companion, alongside offering individuals spiritual direction.
- Facilitating guided/directed silent retreats at Villa Madonna, Rothesay, NB, with AASEA (2011 to present).
- Regular facilitating of creative, contemplative retreat experiences in a variety of settings: church, small group, classroom, board meetings, youth and women’s retreats (2005 to present).

Event Planning

- Planning of Convocation week events for SSU (April 2017, 2018, and 2019), including dessert buffet celebrations at the Algonquin Resort, Saint Andrews, NB, and graduation ceremonies.
- Conception and planning of two Enneagram weekend workshops (January 2011 and February 2012) with teaching from an Enneagram Institute core faculty member.
- Catering the Charlotte County Fair community supper for 150 people (2013), as well as numerous Cheese and Wine events and celebrations.

Leadership

- **SSU Management Committee member** – involvement in consensus-led decision-making for the university (March 2016 – January 2020).
- **Member of the SSU Board of Governors**, elected by SSU faculty (April 2014 – October 2016).
- **Chairperson of the Topsham Toddler Group, Topsham, U.K.** (2006-2007) – Successfully revived and re-launched a struggling local community group by: recruiting a committee, facilitating group decision making, and restructuring the everyday management of the group.
- **Proprietor of Estuary Organics, Topsham, U.K.** – Launched, marketed, and managed an organic food distribution business.
- **Co-leader of Exeter Vineyard School of Discipleship, Exeter, U.K.** – Developed and delivered three five-month residential faith-based training schools for young people aged 17-37, including organisation and leadership of two two-month travel programs to South Africa and Namibia (itinerary, budget, transport, work experience, liaising with local service providers, team leadership) (1997/1998, 1998/1999, 2001).
- **Joint Associate Pastor of Exeter Vineyard Christian Fellowship, Exeter, U.K.** – Pastoral work with my husband Jeremy, including pastoral counselling, hospitality, and leading small groups (1999 - 2002).

Community Service

- Leadership of the Saint Croix Church youth group (2014- 2018).
- Once a week in-school one-on-one mentoring through **Big Brothers Big Sisters** with a student at the Saint Stephen Elementary School (SSES) (2013 – 2017).
- **“I’m Thumbbody”** – training in and delivery of Canadian Mental Health Association self-esteem program for Grade 3 students at SSES (2012 and 2013).
- **SSES Grade 5 cookery club** volunteer (2014 – 2016).

Cross-cultural Experience

- Part of the faculty and leadership for SSU Europe Travel Study Programs (2011, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019).
- Discipleship Training School in South Africa and Mauritius (Youth With A Mission – 3 months in each country), with an additional 3 months living in Cape Town working for YWAM’s hospitality department, serving at a soup kitchen for street kids, and visiting a women’s prison (1996-1997).
- Summer of volunteer work at the German headquarters of Operation Mobilisation, including cooking, cleaning, and pastoral visits to an asylum seekers’ camp (July and August 1995).
- Summer volunteer trips to Albania (1992), Spain (1993) and France (1996).
- Summer as an ‘Au Pair’ childminder in Germany (July and August 1991).
- Two student exchange programmes to France (1988 and 1990) and one to Germany (1990).
- Numerous additional shorter trips within Europe and North America.

Interpreting and translating skills

Interpretation at meetings in France and Mauritius; translation of documents into/out of French and German, including German translation for Social Sculpture Research Unit, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK (2008).

Other interests

My other interests include spending time with my husband Jeremy and daughter Amélie, cooking delicious and nourishing meals, yoga and dance, lake swimming and kayaking, reading and writing poetry, good food and wine shared with friends, and foreign travel.

(Last updated August 2020)