

Kym Stewart is a PhD student in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University. Between 1997 and 2004 she was a media researcher at the SFU Media Analysis Laboratory where she studied the roles of various media in contemporary families, including the impacts of television and advertising on childrens, imaginative play, sedentary lifestyles and aggression. In 2001 Kym spent one year in South Korea conducting research for her MA thesis, Informatization of a nation; A case study of South Korea,s computer gaming and PC-Bang culture.

For the past four years she has coordinated and developed media education programs focusing on helping elementary school teachers, students and parents examine the role of media in their lives through creative media education initiatives. These media education consultation experiences within the Lower Mainland and in First Nations Communities will provide the basis for her dissertation research which focuses on the development transformative, media-education experiences for teachers, students and parents.

This research entails working with teachers in their implementation of media education curriculum materials, designed in collaboration with SFU's Imaginative Education Research Group. The research approach is based on transformative changes in teachers, students and parents notions of media impacts on their own individual lives and cultural identity. This project will thus contribute to research on the role of imagination in teaching and learning in different cultural and social contexts, to research on media education and its effects of youth health, and to research on education in both non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal communities.