

Sheila McLeod Arnopoulos
Curriculum Vitae

PUBLICATIONS

Non-fiction

The English Fact in Quebec (with Dominique Clift), McGill-Queen's University Press, 1980; Second edition, 1984. Original French version: ***Le fait Anglais au Québec***, Les Editions Libre Expression, 1979.

Voices from French Ontario, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1982. French version: ***Hors du Québec Point de Salut?*** Les Editions Libre Expression, 1982.

Saris on Scooters - How Microcredit is Changing Village India, Dundurn Press, 2010. ***Saris en Scooter- La révolution du microcrédit dans l'Inde des villages***, 2010 Stanke. Also Mehta Publishing House, Pune India, 2011.

Chapter in ***To See Ourselves: Five Views on Canadian Women***, Government of Canada, International Women's Year Secretariat, 1975.

Chapter in ***From Majority to Minority Status***, Eric Waddell and Gary Caldwell (editors), Government of Quebec, 1980.

Fiction

Jackrabbit Moon (novel), Ronsdale Press, Vancouver, 2000. French translation, ***Dans l'Ombre de Maggie***, Libre Expression, Montreal, 2000.

Short Stories

Out of Bounds, Austin Macauley, 2023.

"Robbery in their Palaces," in ***Encounters***, Lonergan College Concordia, 1996.

"Last Rites" in ***Seeds***, Lonergan College Concordia, 1997.

"Rent a Wreck" in ***Crossing Customs***, Lonergan College Concordia, 2001.

"Jasmine and Sugar Cane," in ***The Little Magazine***, Delhi, India, January 2006.

Freelance Articles in Newspapers and Journals

For *The Montreal Star*, articles about about refugees in Calcutta during the creation of Bangladesh, 1971.

"The Plight of Women and Children in Post-Communist Russia," *The Montreal Gazette*, December, 1994.

"Women in the Russia of May of 1994," in *Minerva's Russian Odyssey*, Liberal Arts College Concordia, Downtown Press, 1995.

"Baal Revisited: A Journalist's Reflections on Winter Notes on Summer Impressions," *Loneragan Review - Dostoyevsky*, March 1996.

Book Reviews of *Tales from the Gardens and Beyond* by Hazell Palmer, *Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall* by Robert Edison Sandiford and *How Loud Can the Village Cock Crow* by H. Nigel Thomas, in *The Afro News*, Vancouver, July 14, 1996.

"Je Me Souviens: Anglos are Right to Worry on Schools," Commentary, Op Ed Page in *The Montreal Gazette*, February, 18, 1997.

"Men in Dark Times," *Loneragan Review, Hannah Arendt: A Philosopher of Politics for our Time*, Number 5, 1997.

"Seinfeld was Wrong," Here and Now column in *En route* magazine, May 1998

Book review of *Beyond Two Solitudes* by Donald Smith, *Montreal Review of Books*, Spring 1999.

"The Creative Process in the Writing of the Novel, Jackrabbit Moon," *Journal of Indo-Canadian Studies*, Kerela, India, winter 2001.

Book review of *In the Name of the Father* by Daniel Poliquin, *Montreal Review of Books*, Spring 2001.

"Discovering the Gifts of Dalit Women Journalists", *The Link*, Concordia University, December 2002.

- "Helping Hand for Women: A little money goes a long way when you start a business in a small Indian village," in *The Montreal Gazette*, Oct. 2, 2005.

"Hoofing It in Hyderabad", Facts and Arguments, **The Globe and Mail**, August 4, 2005. (about the perils of crossing the street in the Indian city of Hyderabad)

"Tunisia - A Revolution in Progress," **The Montreal Gazette**, July 18 2012.

"Celebrating Multilingual Montreal," **The Montreal Gazette**, Nov 8 2012

"Un climat d'inclusion, **La Presse**, Montreal Nov. 13, 2012.

"Tunisian Women Shape the Political Landscape," **The Montreal Gazette**, August 26 2013.

"Nasty Remarks and Dirty Looks," **The Montreal Gazette**, Nov. 15, 2013

"Highly Qualified Muslim Immigrants Face Employment Discrimination," **The Montreal Gazette**, Feb. 6 2014.

ARTICLES RELATING TO MICROCREDIT AND INDIA

"Discovering the Gifts of Dalit Women Journalists", **The Link**, Concordia University, Montreal, December 2002.

"Helping Hand for Women: A little money goes a long way when you start a business in a small Indian village," **The Montreal Gazette**, October 2, 2005.

"Jasmine and Sugar Cane," short story in **The Little Magazine**, Delhi, India, January 2006.

Three articles on Hindu violence against Muslims from Hyderabad and Ahmedabad, **The Montreal Gazette**, April 2002.

"Hoofing It in Hyderabad", Facts and Arguments, **The Globe and Mail**, August 4, 2005. (about the perils of crossing the street in the Indian city of Hyderabad)

PRESENTATIONS ON MICROCREDIT IN INDIA

"Grassroots Women and Microcredit in India," The Canadian Institute on International Affairs, Montreal, Canada, September 2006.

"The Self-Employed Women's Association and Grassroots Development," Scholar's Circle, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, September 2008.

Presentation with photographs on **Saris on Scooters**, Atwater Library, Montreal, Sept. 16, 2010.

Presentation with photographs on **Saris on Scooters** Pointe Claire Library, Montreal, Sept. 30, 2010.

"The Leap into the Mainstream Economy: Low Caste Indian Women Take on the Power Elite." Toronto Microfinance Conference, Oct 1,2 2010.

Presentation with photographs on **Saris on Scooters**, Beaconsfield Library, Oct. 21, 2010.

Presentation on microcredit in India, University of Toronto, Munk School of Global Affairs, Centre for South Asian Studies, October 2010.

"How Microcredit in India is Promoting an Exciting New Financial Literacy," with photographs, University Women's Club of Montreal, February 16th, 2011.

"Attacking Poverty Through Microcredit – Challenges in India." Take Action Association, Queen's University Branch, Kingston, March 2011.

"Attacking poverty Through Microcredit - Challenges in India" Westmount Public Library, March 30th, 2011

"The empowerment of grassroots Indian women who are creating independent cooperatives and pushing for social justice." University of Pennsylvania Microfinance Conference, Philadelphia April 9th, 2011 on a panel on Microfinance Plus.

"India from the Outside" with writers Clark Blaise and Merrily Weisbord. Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival May 1st, 2011.

Booklets Published by The Montreal Star

The Immigrants Dilemma, 1968.

Sixty Plus (on plight of the old), 1971.

Newspaper Series in The Montreal Star

"Sex and Women's Rights" (abortion family planning, sex education), 1969.

"The Restless Poor," 1970.

"The Immigrant Factory Workers," 1974.

"The World of the Waitress," 1975.

"Occupations, Status and Pay," 1976.

"Montreal Anglophones" (integration into French work milieus), 1977.

"Francisation programs," in Montreal firms, 1977.

Series of Articles on working poor

Inspired in the mid-seventies by the "New Journalism" of writers such as Tom Wolfe, I worked undercover in several factories and restaurants in order to find out about exploitation of working poor immigrants, most of them women.

After the first series of articles, which focused upon exploitation of workers in Montreal clothing factories, I was featured in the Canadian edition of *Time Magazine*. The next year I worked undercover in restaurants and bars.

I followed that with stories on businesses in Montreal that had been caught not paying minimum wages, and after refusing to pay up, were brought to court. In the wake of these articles, the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women hired me to do a special study on the problems of immigrant women in the Canadian labour force.

RESEARCH PAPERS

Problems of Immigrant Women in the Canadian Labour Force, published in English and French by the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Government of Canada, 1979.

Particichange: A Quality of Working Life Program in a Chemical Plant. (Case study of work relations and their transformation at a fertilizer factory in Niagara Falls.) McGill Human Resource Associates. Montreal, 1984.

Broadcasting for the Official Language Minorities: The Need for a Community Development Approach. Taskforce on Broadcasting, Government of Canada, 1985.

GOVERNMENT

Le Conseil consultative de l'Immigration, Québec (member)
Conseil de la Langue française, Québec (member)

AWARDS

Governor-General's Literary Award (with Dominique Clift) for ***Le Fait Anglais au Québec***, Les Editions Libre Expression, 1979

National Newspaper Award, feature writing, for eight-part series on immigrants in ***The Montreal Star***, 1968

France/Quebec Intercultural Exchange Award, Government of France, to research and write about foreign workers in France, 1974.
Articles appeared in ***The Montreal Star***

Media Club Award, for chapter on non-professional working woman, in ***To See Ourselves***, published by International Women's Year Secretariat, Government of Canada, 1975

YWCA of Montreal Award, for writing on women in the work world, 1977

HONORARY MENTIONS

Amazon/Books First Novel Award, In addition to short list from W.P. Kinsella, for ***Jackrabbit Moon***, in ***Books in Canada***, Sept/October 2001

Short List, National Business Book Award, 2011, for ***Saris on Scotters - How Microcredit is Changing Village India***

EDUCATION

BA, McGill University, Political Science, 1961,
MA, Concordia University, Sociology, 1978

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Reporter, *The Montreal Star*, 1962-1978

Entertainment, book reviews, interviews, 1962-1967

Staff reporter, feature writer, foreign affairs (United Nations, Geneva, Hong Kong, Japan, India, Yugoslavia, Greece, France, Switzerland), 1967-1977

Investigative reporting team (poverty and social affairs, immigrants, minorities), 1976-1978

Columnist, *Le Devoir*, 1982-1983

Freelance Reporter/Writer

CBC International Service, Eight-part series on immigration, 1975

Commentator on public affairs

CBC, CBC Newsworld, Radio Canada, Radio Quebec

Lecturer

Dawson College, Montreal, Communications, 1970-71, 1979-80, 1982-83; Vanier College, Sociology, 1980

Assistant Professor

Concordia University, Journalism Department, 1982-2004, Lonergan College.

While teaching journalism I was also a professor at Concordia's Lonergan College where I gave a course that focused upon cross identities in fiction across the world and in Canada. Books used were *Global Cultures* edited by Elizabeth Young-Bruehl, and *Making a Difference* edited by Smaro Kambourelli. Students had to write a short story that reflected upon diversity.

International Experience

Lectured in China and Japan at universities in 2000, and again China, 2001, on social issues in journalism and on multicultural literature in Canada as well as on the process of writing a novel.

While in India doing research on microcredit, I gave lectures on investigative journalism to university students enrolled in a journalism diploma program in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in 2005, and to another group also studying journalism, in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh in 2006.

Career Focus upon Social and Political Issues

During the course of my writing career, whether working as a reporter for a newspaper, or writing books, including a novel, I have concentrated mostly upon people facing difficult social and political questions.

At *The Montreal Star*, I concentrated upon issues relating to women, poverty and minorities. For example, I covered the Royal

Commission on the Status of Women which held hearings in 1968 and published its report in 1970. In 1969, I wrote about the plight of women seeking illegal abortions.

For a continuing series in the mid-1970s on the working poor in Montreal, I investigated exploitation of immigrant women forced to work at below the minimum wage in Dickensian-like factories.

In 1974, I went to France to look into conditions of "guest workers" most of them from North Africa.

In 1979 I was asked by the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women to look into the general problems of immigrant women in the Canadian labour force which resulted in a special paper published in 1979.

At home in Quebec, during the late 1970s and early 1980s, in the wake of the rise of nationalism in Quebec, and the struggles of the French minority outside Quebec, I became interested in English/French questions and wrote two books on the subject.

This was after *The Montreal Star* folded and I was working independently as a freelance writer. The first book, which I wrote with Dominique Clift, was the *English Fact in Quebec* on the circumstances of French, English, and ethnic groups in Quebec. *Voices from French Ontario* looked at the condition of francophones in Northern Ontario.

Because of my continuing interest in minorities, I was later named to two provincial commissions: Le Conseil consultative de l'Immigration, and after that to the Conseil de la Langue française.

In 1982-83, I also wrote a column in French on the situation of English and ethnic minorities in Montreal for *Le Devoir*.

During the mid-1990s, on a study trip to post-communist Russia with a group from Concordia University, I wrote about the plight of women and children begging on the street of Moscow because of the rise of unemployment and the loss of social services.

During the 1990s, after doing extensive research in Montreal on abandoned children living on the streets, and miserable youth from foster homes who ran away and got into trouble, I plunged into the world of fiction and wrote *Jackrabbit Moon*.

The novel focused upon the disadvantaged poor and unfolded in slums, Montreal courts, prisons, strip bars and sweatshops. It also featured a reporter working for a newspaper that was more interested in sensationalism than in social justice.

Saris on Scooters - How Microcredit is Changing Village India

based on 21 months of research in India during four major stints of field work between 2001 and 2008 took me into uplifting situations in villages. While looking into the spread of microcredit, I met poor marginalized women, among them Dalits (untouchables), Adivasis (tribal groups) and Muslims who were joining together to fight poverty by taking loans and working in their villages to bring about social justice.

In 2012 I became interested in leadership roles among Arab women in Tunisia. I spent five months investigating the work of poverty alleviation through microcredit under the direction of Essma Ben Hamida at Enda Inter-Arabe. In addition I researched the work of non-government-organizations engaged in the economic and social promotion of women in the wake of the Arab Spring of 2011. This resulted in two major articles in ***The Montreal Gazette*** in 2012 and 2013.

During 2013 and 2014 during the hearings on the Charter of Quebec Values proposed by the Parti Quebecois government I also wrote about the situation of discrimination faced by Quebecers of Arab and Muslim origin, particularly women, in Montreal.