



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ

Grants awarded 2011-2012

Congratulations to the following team members, whose applications for funding were successful. The Religion and Diversity Project is pleased to fund the following research projects for 2011-2012.

Lori Beaman, University of Ottawa.

“Uncovering Everyday Negotiations: Exploring Best and Worst Practices”

(Benjamin Berger, Richard Moon, James Richardson, Leo Van Arragon, Steven Tomlins, William Hoverd, Lene van der Aa Kühle)

Although case law can offer some insights into the ways in which people negotiate religious diversity in everyday life by revealing the steps taken to reach agreement or, in popular language, accommodation, we know very little about the myriad ways that people experience those negotiations in the course of everyday life. Do they see themselves as equals in the bargaining process? Do they experience satisfactory resolution of their requests for ‘accommodation’? How do they frame those requests? Do they reference, either implicitly or explicitly, models of equality? This project will work to produce a bibliography, annotated table of cases as well as conducting interviews and focus groups.

Benjamin Berger, University of Victoria.

“The Definition and Delimitation of Religion in the Context of Canadian and British Prisons”

(James Beckford)

This pilot study investigates questions of accommodation, equality and justice that arise in connection with religious diversity. The project’s main aim is to address questions about the definition and delimitation of religion in the context of Canadian and British prisons. Prisons provide a unique institutional site for exploring religious diversity and its regulation, partly because the level of religious diversity is higher in the prison population than in the general population of many countries and partly because prison policies and practices provide a clear insight into the stance of states towards the management of religious diversity. The project focuses primarily on the ‘limiting strategies’ that public institutions are thought to place on recognizing religious differences and granting religious freedom to groups outside the religious mainstream of many western societies. If this pilot study is successful, plans will be made for a larger project involving comparison between the Canada, the USA and Britain. This project includes James Beckford.

Peter Beyer, University of Ottawa.

“A Web-based Survey Instrument on Religious Identity”

(Solange Lefebvre, Patrice Brodeur, Kim Knott, Prema Kurien, Susan Palmer, Samuel Reimer, Jasjit Singh, Michael Wilkinson)

The proposed research has as its purpose to create a single research instrument that allows the understanding of religious group identity differences. This will consist in the putting together of a web-based survey instrument that will be useable by different researchers, working with different groups. It will consist of a basic and uniform set of questions, but will also allow the inclusion of a range of variable and specific questions tailored to each religious group and co-determined by the researchers using the survey instrument. The creation of this survey question includes pre-testing it on a range of subjects drawn from the researchers' contacts and representing different religious identities. The actual use of the survey instrument will be done by different subsequent research projects, who will each bring adherents of different religious identities to the survey. Over time, therefore, the instrument will be used by an array of such groups, yielding useful data on comparative religious identity construction in Canada (and in other comparator countries).

Peter Beyer, University of Ottawa.

“Conceptions of Religious Diversity among Immigrant and 2nd Generation Young Adults in Canada: Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs, and Religious Nones”

(Solange Lefebvre, Michael Wilkinson, Rubina Ramji, Glen Choi)

The project will analyze 298 individual, in-depth, and semi-structured interviews drawn from the “Immigrant Youth” (data gathered 2004-2006), and the “Immigrant Young Adult” (data gathered 2008-2010) projects headed by Beyer and in which the other applicants have participated. These interviews consist of individuals in the 18-30 year range who are, with a few exceptions, themselves immigrants to Canada or from immigrant families. Their cultural backgrounds cover the globe, but religiously they professed some relation to the identities listed in the title above. The interviewees consist of a mixture of people who clearly identify with a particular religion and those who do not, and therefore the project promises to be able to gauge the fluidity and variability of religious identity constructions in the Canadian context among these subpopulations.



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Pamela Dickey Young, Queen's University.

“Religion, Gender and Sexuality among Youth in Canada”

(Donald Boisvert, Nancy Nason-Clark)

- Project Goals: To explore the constructions and management strategies undertaken by young adults (aged 18-30) both religious and non-religious concerning their sexual identities, values, and choices; To examine the significant social, cultural, and political factors that inform the above-mentioned processes; To study how these young adults manage their religious, sexual, and gender identities; To generate rich qualitative and quantitative data that will contribute new knowledge to academic and policy debates on religion, youth, sexuality, and gender.

This project will build on resources from Andrew Kam-Tuck Yip's Religion, Youth and Sexuality (UK) research, a project which has recently ended. A goal of this research is to develop a data set in order to understand the relationship of religion and sexuality among youth in Canada. Our data will also allow comparison with the research results of Yip's project, to enable ongoing international collaboration as part of the MCRI project.

Pascale Fournier, University of Ottawa.

“Comparative Law at the Intersection of Religious and Secular Orders: The Muslim Talaq in Israel”

This project is an extension of my SSHRC-funded project on the migration of minority religious laws in Canada, the UK, Germany and France, in which I research the Jewish *get* divorce and the Islamic *Talaq* divorce and their effects on the situation of religious women. This project is ongoing, with fieldwork completed in Canada and Germany and interviews currently being conducted in the UK and France. A complementary phase of this project, funded by the Québec Bar Foundation, the Foundation for Legal Research, Borden Ladner Gervais law firm and the Law Foundation of Ontario, has dealt extensively with the situation of Jewish women in Israel, with six interviews with women who have gone through a divorce in Israel. This phase allowed me to further research the situation of the Jewish *Agunah*, the “chained wife” who is being refused the Jewish divorce (*get*) by her husband (Shachar, 2008), a thorny problem which the Supreme Court of Canada has tackled in the landmark case *Bruker v Marcovitz* [2007] 3 SCR 607. As a lot of the Canadian Jewish women I interviewed have confirmed, Israeli legal institutions play a role in the (religious) life of the diaspora that cannot be overstressed. Adding Israel to the countries I am studying has allowed me to sketch out

approaches for Canadian policy-makers which go across borders, an important move in the context of internationalization of religious diversity and mass legal “transplantation” (Fournier, 2010). The results of my research on Israel will be published in two forthcoming articles, in addition to three forthcoming articles relating to the Canadian context.

Solange Lefebvre, Université de Montréal.

« **Religion et sphère publique au Canada : comparaison des politiques de gestion** »

(Patrice Brodeur, Barbara Thériault, Pascale Fournier, Jean-François Gaudreault-Desbiens, Amélie Barras, William Hoverd)

Les modèles de gestion de la diversité religieuse des états occidentaux se trouvent soumis à de fortes pressions pour s’adapter et se transformer. Pour analyser ce phénomène, le projet se penche sur des politiques et pratiques concernant la gestion de la religion et de la diversité. Le but de ce projet est de développer et mettre en œuvre une méthodologie et une démarche de recherche au Québec qui pourrait être répétée dans d’autres provinces canadiennes subséquentement. Le projet se fera en collaboration avec William Hoverd, postdoctorant à l’Université d’Ottawa, qui développera le volet ontarien avec l’équipe.

Barbara Thériault, Université de Montréal

« **L’aumônerie de prison : le cas de l’établissement de détention Tanguay (Montréal)** »

La présente demande a pour but le développement d’une recherche pilote sur l’aumônerie et la religiosité des détenues d’un l’établissement de détention de Montréal, la prison Tanguay. Le projet s’inscrit dans le cadre de deux recherches préalables, soit :

1) les travaux en cours de l’équipe autour de Ben Berger et de James Beckford au sein du GTRC sur l’aumônerie dans les prisons au Canada, en Angleterre et au Pays de Galle. Dans le cas précis du Québec, l’objet s’inscrit dans un contexte de déconfessionnalisation des institutions publiques (les écoles avant tout, puis les hôpitaux et, éventuellement, les établissements carcéraux) et la reconnaissance d’un métier d’intervenants spirituels.

2) un nouveau projet de recherche financé par le CRSH dans lequel je (Barbara Thériault) développe la notion de *Stellvertretung*, traduit de l’allemand par « activité de représentation ». J’avance que cette notion — trouvant son expression théologique dans la figure du « vicaire » — permet de développer le potentiel sociologique des figures intermédiaires qui intercèdent, parlent et agissent au nom d’autrui. Dans un contexte de pluralisme religieux, mais aussi d’éloignement par rapport à la religion, l’aumônerie constitue un terrain tout indiqué pour développer la notion de *Stellvertretung*.