



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



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Research Statement

Diasporas, migration and identities As director of this research programme across the Arts and Humanities in the UK, I was responsible for creating a coherent programme, overseeing the commissioning process, the monitoring of the Programme's forty-nine projects and networks, and the running of academic and stakeholder events in relation to these themes. The role also involved collaboration with the cultural sector, media, government, and community bodies, and working with other European centres and funding agencies. *Diasporas, Migration and Identities: Final Director's Report* is available on www.diasporas.ac.uk. I am currently drawing the programme to a close with an AHRC Programme Directors Impact Fellowship. In 2010, I co-edited a programme book (with Seán McLoughlin), *Diasporas: Concepts, Intersections, Identities* (Zed), and am preparing several articles which bring together the findings and achievements of the programme. I have worked in this field since my doctoral studies (on Hindu migrants in Britain and their religious practices and organisations), and have written on religion, ethnicity, migration and identity. I co-direct the Community Religions Project and supervise student research projects on the 'Religious Mapping of Leeds' and on local religious communities and identities.

Space, religion and the secular Since 2005 I have worked on issues of religion, place and space and situated my research in the geography (as well as sociology) of religions. The first stage of the research focused on developing a spatial methodology for the study of religions. The second stage involved applying this methodology to the location of religion in secular locations, including the left hand, public sector organisations, urban landscapes,



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everyday ritual and academic disciplines, and to the relationship between the religious, secular and postsecular. I directed an exploratory research project on 'Locating religion in the fabric of the secular' in which we used the spatial methodology to examine religious and secular beliefs and values in an English medical centre and a high school.

Media portrayals of religion A further research project, 'Media portrayals of religion and the secular sacred' (2008-10), replicated research I conducted in the 1980s, and took forward my interest in examining the 'sacred' as a theoretical resource for crossing the boundary between religious and secular concerns. A book, *Media Portrayals of Religion and the Secular Sacred: Representation and Change* (co-authored with Elizabeth Poole and Teemu Tairi) is nearing completion, and articles are in press. Situated within the Institute of Religion and Public Life at Leeds, this research has led to internships, consultation and research-led teaching on religion and media.