



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



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**Research Interests**

I am interested in the intersections between secularism, religious radicalization, securitization, post-colonialism, and religious identity in contemporary Canada. A great many of my research interests revolve around emerging understandings of religious, political and ethnic identity in rapidly evolving liberal democratic societies.

At present, I am involved in four research projects.

*The Role of Religiously Affiliated Settlement Agencies (RASA) in BC: Past, Present, and Future:* This project, funded by Metropolis British Columbia, explores the contributions of RASA to Canadian society. Among other questions, I propose to address: how much labour do such groups perform for the state?; how might these functions be influenced by (secularizing) changes both within settlement agencies and federal and provincial governments? This BC-based pilot project will serve as the basis for a much larger national and international comparative project which draws other locales as well as the recipients of RASA services into the analysis.

*Religion, Radicalization and Securitization:* This CSRS-based project is funded by Public Safety Canada and Defence Research and Development Canada; the principal investigators are Lorne Dawson and myself. Our team of scholars will address the relationship between the forces of radicalization (within particular minority religious groups in Canada) and securitization (by the state and society).



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*Spiritual Understandings of the Good Death in Hospice Palliative Care:* This CSRS-based project is funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research; the principal investigators are Harold Coward, Kelli Stajduhar and myself. We examine the way “spirituality” has in many cases eclipsed religion in the discourses related to the good death in hospice palliative care. What are the sources and implications of this shift? Are hospice workers prepared to engage “spiritual but not religious” patients as they approach the final stages of their lives?

*Religious and Cultural Roots of Vaccine Refusal:* This project is funded by the Réseau de recherche en santé des populations du Québec; the principal investigators are Maryse Guay, Real Roy, Julie Bettinger and myself. We examine the various cultural, psychological and religious forces at work in our society leading to anxieties about the safety and value of vaccinations for themselves and their families.