



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



Peter Beyer

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Research Statement:

Since 2001, Peter Beyer has been conducting a series of collaborative research projects on religious diversity in Canada, with special focus on the religion of post 1960s immigrants and their second generation. Between 2001 and 2004, he led a project that analyzed religious diversity in Canada on the basis of Canadian census data from 1971 to 2001. On the basis of questions raised by the results of this research, he then led a team of researchers (including Beaman, Nason-Clark, and Ramji from the Religion and Diversity Project team) from 2004-2008 on a project that explored the religious expression of second and 1.5 generation young Canadian adults from Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist backgrounds to see how they were or were not reconstructing the religions of their heritages in Canada. He is currently leading another team of researchers (this time including Beaman, Nason-Clark, Ramji, and Wilkinson) on a similar project that is exploring the religious expression and attitudes to religious diversity and multiculturalism in Canada of young adults from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds in six Canadian cities from coast to coast, from Vancouver, BC to Sydney, NS.

As his publications indicate, Peter Beyer has a longstanding research interest in questions concerning the relations between religion and globalization. His 1994 and 2006 volumes are contributions to the theoretical understanding of those relationships, as are numerous other publications over the past 20 years. The empirical research projects of the past 10 years are in part attempts to explore and test some of the theoretical questions that emerge from this work.

For the immediate future, Beyer is extending the previous empirical and theoretical work in two directions. One project, in collaboration with researchers both within and beyond the Religious Diversity Project team, will seek to develop scales of religious involvement for different major religious identities in Canada and test the relationships between these

diverse religions and other social, economic, and political dimensions. The other is attempting to develop the theory of religion and globalization in the direction of possible ways of understanding current global transformations of the structural forms that religion is taking.