



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



Pamela Dickey Young

Strand Leader (Strand 3) and Co-Investigator

youngpd@queensu.ca

Professor

School of Religion

Queen's University

Research Statement:

My current research interests revolve around questions of sex, gender and public policy. I am interested in such questions as how religion plays into the social construction of sex, gender and sexuality and how religion is involved in public debates on questions of sex, gender and sexuality.

Current Research Projects:

I am completing a book on the role of Canadian churches in the same-sex marriage debate. Here I am interested in how the churches involved themselves in the debate in two ways. First, I explore how understandings of same-sex marriage are constructed against the historical background of understandings of sexuality and marriage in Christian churches. Second, I look at how the positions of the churches fared in the public policy debate as a whole.

I am also working on a project that examines Bill 44 in Alberta as a case study of how religion and sexuality are often seen as similar in the public imagination. For example, both are usually seen as private, not public. Both are seen as contentious and divisive. In this I am trying to get closer to the question of why sex and religion continue to be topics where discussion is discouraged in places like public schools.

In the context of the MCRI work I will begin some work on issues of sexuality and violence, looking at how religion and violence intersect for members of sexual minorities. How are religious traditions implicated in violence against sexual minorities?