



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



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Brief Biography

Bill James is Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada. He received his PhD in 1974 from the University of Chicago in the field of Religion and Literature. For thirty-five years he was a member of the Department of Religious Studies at Queen's University where he taught in the areas of Religion and Culture, Religion in Canada, and Modern Religious Thought. He has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Toronto and on four occasions at Kwansai Gakuin University in Nishinomiya, Japan, as Visiting Professor of Canadian Studies.

For seven years he was the Book Review Editor of *Studies in Religion /Sciences religieuses*. On two occasions he was on the board of the Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion. He has held various executive positions in the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion including that of President, 1996-98, and in the Eastern International Region of the American Academy of Religion.

Bill James's most recent book is *God's Plenty: Religious Diversity in Kingston* (under review in 2010 by McGill-Queen's University Press). His previous books include *Locations of the Sacred: Essays on Religion, Literature, and Canadian Culture* (1998), *Religious Studies in Ontario: A State-of-the-Art Review* (with Dan Fraikin and Harold Remus, 1992), and *A Fur Trader's Photographs: A. A. Chesterfield in the District of Ungava, 1901-04* (1985). He has presented about three dozen conference papers and is the author of almost thirty articles published in edited collections or refereed journals. Among his better-known articles—and perhaps most exemplary of his scholarly focus—are “The Canoe Trip as Religious Quest,”

published in *Studies in Religion* in 1981, and “Dimorphs and Cobblers: Ways of Being Religious in Canada,” reprinted in Lori G. Beaman, ed., *Religion and Canadian Society* (2006).