Theme: Religion and Education in Canada

Session Organizers: Christine L. Cusack, University of Ottawa
ccusack@uottawa.ca

Leo Van Arragon, University of Ottawa
ivanarragon@gmail.com

The issue of religion in Canadian classrooms is at a crossroads of conflicting opinion and ongoing political debate. From a recent judgment granting opt-out rights for religion courses in an Ontario Catholic school to the deconfessionalization of all primary and secondary institutions in Quebec, the issue raises a myriad of practical and theoretical questions about the intersection of diversity, inclusion, and exclusion. Deference to Constitutional guarantees, for example, have historically kept challenges to public funding of separate schools at bay, while institutional mandates that privilege enrollment based on religious affiliation pose ethical dilemmas for the citizenship project of public education. The future of religion in public classrooms invites diverse, interdisciplinary engagement, including reflections on contested territory such as the recognition of pluralism and the promotion of religious equality as a component of public morality. This session aims to explore innovative approaches to religion and education in the Canadian context and to assemble a diverse offering of viewpoints on the role of public education in a plural democracy.

We welcome paper proposals from faculty members and graduate students in a variety of academic areas including education, law, political science, public policy, sociology, and religious studies.

Please include the following in your proposal:

- Name and contact information including email address
- Brief bio and academic CV
- Institutional affiliation
- Title of proposed paper
• Abstract not exceeding 150 words, clearly linking your presentation to the session theme and its contribution to knowledge about religion and education in Canada.

In the subject line of your email, please indicate “Religion and Education Paper Proposal.” Please send your proposals to christinelcusack@gmail.com by January 4, 2014.