

Research Project Report
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Innovation Grant, 2015-2016 Competition
Funding Period: July 2015- April 2017
Grant Amount: CAD \$6,900

Project Title: *Religion and Organ Donation: Knowledge and Attitudes toward Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation among Christians Living in Canada*

Project Goal: The main goal of this research project has been to investigate the role of religion in organ donation. Specifically, it aimed to explore what and how Christians living in Canada know and feel about organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

Rationale: The impact of a critical shortage of organs and tissues for Canadians awaiting organ and tissue transplants is widely recognized as a public health crisis (Health Canada, 2005; The Kidney foundation of Canada, 2005). Despite the growing awareness of the fact that Canada has one of the lowest organ donor rates in the developed world, specific knowledge about organ donation among the public remains limited (CIHI, 2004). There may be various challenges, beliefs, and fears associated with organ donation (Morgan, et al., 2008; Schulz, Nakamoto, Brinberg, & Haes, 2006; Yuen, et al., 1998), and religious concerns may be one of them. Yet, little effort has been made to study the role of religious beliefs and values in organ and tissue donation and transplantation, especially among Christians living in Canada. Hence, the purpose of this study is to explore how the religious beliefs and values of Christians living in Canada, the majority religious group, relate to their knowledge and attitude toward organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

Methods: The project was carried out over two years. Employing a qualitative approach, data were collected using semi-structured interviews. Recruited through stratified purposive sampling, snowball sampling, personal and professional network, women and men who self-identified as Christians, had lived in Ottawa, and were able to communicate their experience in English, were invited to participate in the study. From May 2016 to April 2017, 20 semi-structured interviews were conducted with participants from Ottawa to explore how their

religious beliefs and values might relate to their knowledge and attitude toward organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

Provisional Findings: The digitally recorded interviews have been transcribed verbatim and will be subject to thematic analysis using constant comparative method.

Outputs: A comprehensive literature search on the broader topic “religious beliefs and organ and tissue donation and transplantation” has been conducted. I am working on completing a literature search results chart and an abridged annotated bibliography on the subject-matter.

I am continuing with interview data mining and I plan to prepare research summary document which will concisely summarize the key findings by topic area and include key points and fact sheets; prepare manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals, and present findings at conferences both locally and internationally.

Student Information:

Research Assistantship:

A key component of this project has been student training in academic research. Accordingly, one undergraduate student in communication and one graduate student in women’s studies had been hired and trained as research assistants to help with literature search and summary, and recruiting interview participants.

Finances:

Breakdown of Expenses				
Student Funding*				
	Amount	Name	Dates	Project
Student Assistantship	\$2208.00	Zeba Tasci	February-April, 2017	
	\$2070.38	Radamis Zaky	March-April, 2017	
Research Funding				
	Amount	Project	Dates	Specifics**
Funding for Research Costs				

	\$1900.00		April, 2017	Professional fees for transcribing interviews
	\$38.86		January, 2017	Supplies – binders, organizers, exercise books, etc. to manage the data collection and analysis processes
	\$570.00		May 2016 to April 2017	(19 participants X \$30 per interview) as incentive for interview participants
	\$15.98		February, 2017	To buy refreshments for interview participants at the Church