



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



Nancy Nason-Clark

Strand Leader (Strand 3) and Co-Investigator

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Biography

Nancy Nason-Clark is professor of Sociology (and Acting Associate Dean of Arts) at the University of New Brunswick. She is the director of the RAVE Project, a research initiative funded by the Lilly Endowment. Nason-Clark received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Science (1984). She has served as President of the Association for the Sociology of Religion (1998-2000), President of the Religious Research Association (2001-2004), on council of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (1995-1998), and World Hope Canada (2000-2011) and PASCH (2003-2013). Nason-Clark served two terms (2000-2006) as editor of *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review*. A frequent speaker at both secular and religious conferences, her travels have taken her to various parts of the world.

Her major publications include: *Men Who Batter* (2015, Oxford University Press; with Fisher-Townsend), *No Place for Abuse: Biblical and Practical Resources to Counteract Domestic Violence* (2nd edition, 2010; with Kroeger), *Strengthening Families and Ending Abuse* (2013; edited with Fisher-Townsend and Fahlberg), *Responding to Abuse in the Christian Home* (2011; edited with Fisher Townsend and Kroeger) *Refuge from Abuse: Hope and Healing for Abused Christian Women* (2004; with Kroeger), *The Battered Wife: How Christians Confront Family*

Violence (1997), *Beyond Abuse in the Christian Home* (2004; edited with Fisher Townsend and Kroeger), *Feminist Perspectives and Narratives in the Sociology of Religion* (2004; edited with Neitz), and *Understanding Abuse: Partnering for Change* (2004; edited with Stirling, Cameron and Miedema).

Research Statement

For over twenty years, Nancy Nason-Clark has been researching and writing about the interface between religion and domestic violence. She has explored how religious faith impacts the journey towards healing and hope for victims and survivors, the rhetoric and the reality facing religious leaders who are called upon to respond to families impacted by domestic violence, and the collaborative challenges for secular and sacred cooperation in the fight to end intimate partner abuse and other forms of family violence. Her interest in the coordinated community response to abuse has led her to study criminal justice, therapeutic and advocacy responses to the role of religion and religious professionals as partners in ending violence. Over the years, she has conducted projects in Canada, the United States, Asia, the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe.

Since 2005, Nason-Clark has directed the RAVE [Religion and Violence e-Learning] Project, funded by the Lilly Endowment. This is a web-based series of resources and on-line training initiatives to assist religious leaders around the world in responding to abuse victims, perpetrators and their families. The website is available at www.theraveproject.org.

Together with Steve McMullin, she is exploring the role of seminaries in equipping religious leaders to understand the dynamics of family violence and to offer assistance in its aftermath. With Catherine Holtmann, she is documenting how religious women engage in social action and challenge religious organizations to take seriously the issue of abuse. These two initiatives represent specific examples of the broader program of her research.

Nason-Clark was part of Peter Beyer's team of co-investigators examining religion in the lives of 1.5 generation youth from Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist backgrounds. In this context, her long-standing interest in gender and religion is focussed on the religious trajectories of young Hindu women.