



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



Paul Bowlby

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Professor Emeritus

Religious Studies

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Biography

Dr. Bowlby was chair of the Religious Studies department for thirty-one years and has worked extensively to build both the department and his field of study. As might be expected in a small department he taught widely in the areas of the religious traditions of both India, China and Japan, Theory and Methods, and thematic courses, such as religion and violence, religion and story, religion and art in Asia. Prior to his election as President of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, he wrote *Religious Studies in Atlantic Canada: A State-of-the-Art Review* published in 2001. The book was one of five volumes, published by the Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion that surveyed the field nationally in Canada. Most recently he has encouraged the development of the study of religious diversity by writing a new chapter “Sikhism: Becoming a World Religion” in the Canadian edition of *World Religions Today, Canadian Edition* (Oxford University Press). With the affiliation of the Atlantic School of Theology with Saint Mary's University in 2002 the Religious Studies Department now offers a joint M.A. in Theology and Religious Studies. Dr. Bowlby retired in 2013 after 40 years of university teaching and will be continuing his research on religious diversity issues both locally and nationally in his capacity as Professor Emeritus in Religious Studies at Saint Mary's University.

Research Statement

Dr. Bowlby's current research is on the new religious diversity primarily in Halifax and Atlantic Canada. In addition to a broad interest in the socio-political and cultural aspects of the new religious diversity, Dr. Bowlby is currently renewing a project begun with Dr. Nancie Erhard on the Religious Diversity in Halifax six years ago. This project is based upon a

research project funded several years ago Canadian Heritage multiculturalism Canada to study the new religious diversity in Halifax Regional Municipality. The Halifax project has already developed historical profiles of the religious institutions founded in Halifax after 1960; developed resources for social studies and world religions courses in Nova Scotia schools and look in particular at the ways in which religious communities support new immigrants as they settle—and hopefully stay—in Nova Scotia. The new research will provide the historical context and framework for the new religious traditions in Halifax with a focus on the development of religious institutions and sacred spaces by immigrant groups dating from the city's founding.

Dr. Bowlby will continue his supervisory work with M.A. students in the Theology and Religious Studies programme offered by the Atlantic School of Theology and the Religious Studies Department of Saint Mary's University.