



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



Paul Bramadat

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Biography

Paul Bramadat received his BA in religious studies from the University of Winnipeg (1990), his MA in religion and culture from McGill University (1993) and his PhD in religious studies from McMaster University (1998).

In addition to directing the CSRS since 2008, Paul holds teaching appointments in the Department of History and the Religious Studies Program at the University of Victoria. During 2011-2012 served as the director of the Religious Studies Program. He taught in the Religious Studies Department at the University of Winnipeg from 1998 until 2008.

His first book, *The Church on the World's Turf* (Oxford 2000), examined the ways religious sub-cultures can thrive in largely secular environments. His most recent book is *Spirituality in Hospice Palliative Care* (SUNY 2013), co-edited with Kelli Stajduhar and Harold Coward, before which he co-edited *International Migration and the Governance of Religious Diversity* (McGill-Queen's University Press 2009) with German sociologist Matthias Koenig. He has published broadly on issues related to ethnic diversity in Canada, the two most relevant publications being *Religion and Ethnicity in Canada* (Pearson 2005; University of Toronto Press 2009), and *Christianity and Ethnicity in Canada* (University of Toronto 2008). His articles have appeared in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Ethnicities*, *Canadian Ethnic Studies*, *Studies in Religion*, *Ethnologies*, and the *Journal of International Migration and*

Integration, as well as magazines such as *Canadian Diversity*, *The Ecumenist* and *Canadian Issues*.

He has just completed a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council-funded project on postcolonial religious narratives among Indo-Caribbean Canadian Christians. As well, he has been involved in collaborative policy relevant research and the management of major research projects. In particular, for over a decade he was an active member of the Metropolis Project, an international and national network for comparative public policy research on migration, diversity and immigrant integration in urban centres.

He is often commissioned by federal government departments and agencies such as Citizenship and Immigration, Canadian Heritage, the Metropolis Project and Public Safety Canada to lecture and write about the implications of religious diversity for Canadian policy makers interested in immigration, inclusion and security. As well, he spoke recently about secularism and religion in the Breakfast on the Hill series on Parliament Hill and about religious minorities and social inclusion at the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology.

Research Interests

I am interested in the intersections between secularism, religious radicalization, securitization, post-colonialism, and religious identity in contemporary Canada. A great many of my research interests revolve around emerging understandings of religious, political and ethnic identity in rapidly evolving liberal democratic societies.

At present, I am involved in several research projects.

The Role of Religiously Affiliated Settlement Agencies (RASA) in BC: Past, Present, and Future: This project, funded by Metropolis British Columbia, explores the contributions of RASA to Canadian society. Among other questions, I address: how much labour do such groups perform for the state?; how might these functions be influenced by (secularizing) changes both within settlement agencies and federal and provincial governments? This BC-based pilot project will serve as the basis for a much larger national and international comparative project which draws other locales as well as the recipients of RASA services into the analysis. An article based on the findings of this study will appear in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

Religious Radicalization and Securitization in Canada and Beyond: This CSRS-based project is funded by Public Safety Canada and Defence Research and Development Canada; the principal investigators are Lorne Dawson and myself. Our team of scholars has addressed the relationship between the forces of radicalization (within particular minority religious groups in Canada) and securitization (by the state and society). The book will be published through the University of Toronto Press.

The Engagement of Religious Diversity in India, China and Canada. This CSRS-based project is funded by SSHRC and is based on an international symposium on the way these three states

and societies respond to the challenges and opportunities of religious diversity. The co-editor is Rinku Lamba, an Indian political scientist.

I am also interested in the impact of secularization on religiously affiliated volunteer activities in Canada. I am the principal investigator of a national team interested in the social and economic value of the contributions religious groups make to Canadian society through the provision of local social services, the effects on such contributions of changes related to secularization and immigration, and the responses of these groups to such changes.