



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



Peter Beyer

Professor

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Biography

Peter Beyer is professor of religious studies at the University of Ottawa in Ottawa, Canada. He received his PhD in 1981 from the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto, and was a postdoctoral fellow in the Département des sciences religieuses at the Université du Québec à Montréal from 1981-1983. He held various positions in the Department for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto from 1983 to 1995, taking his current position in 1995. He served as chair of the Department of Classics & Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa from 1996-2004.

He has served on the editorial board of various academic journals and is currently co-editing, with Lori Beaman, the International Studies in Religion and Society Series published by Brill. He has held numerous offices within a number of professional associations, including president of the Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion (2003-2006), the Canadian Society of the Study of Religion (2006-2008), the Association for the Sociology of Religion (2010-2011), and the International Society for the Sociology of Religion (2011-2015).

Major publications include *Religion and Globalization* (Sage, 1994), *Religion in the Process of Globalization* (edited, Ergon, 2001), *Religions in a Global Society* (Routledge, 2006), *Religion, Globalization and Culture*, and *Religious Diversity in Canada* (both edited with Lori Beaman, Brill, 2007 & 2008), *Religion in the Context of Globalization* (Routledge, 2013), and *Growing Up Canadian: Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists* (edited with Rubina Ramji, co-authored with Nancy Nason-Clark, Lori Beaman, and others, McGill-Queen's, 2013).

Research Statement

Since 2001, Peter Beyer has been conducting a series of collaborative research projects on religious diversity in Canada, with special focus on the religion of post 1960s immigrants and their second generation. Between 2001 and 2004, he led a project that analyzed religious diversity in Canada on the basis of Canadian census data from 1971 to 2001. On the basis of questions raised by the results of this research, he then led a team of researchers (including Beaman, Nason-Clark, and Ramji from the Religion and Diversity Project team) from 2004-2008 on a project that explored the religious expression of second and 1.5 generation young Canadian adults from Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist backgrounds to see how they were or were not reconstructing the religions of their heritages in Canada. He then lead another team of researchers (this time including Beaman, Lefebvre, Nason-Clark, Ramji, and Wilkinson from the RDP team) on a similar project that explores the religious expression and attitudes to religious diversity and multiculturalism in Canada of young adults from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds in six Canadian cities from coast to coast, from Vancouver, BC to Sydney, NS.

As his publications indicate, Peter Beyer has a longstanding research interest in questions concerning the relations between religion and globalization. His 1994, 2006, and 2013 volumes are contributions to the theoretical understanding of those relationships, as are numerous other publications over the past 20 years. The empirical research projects of the past 12 years are in part attempts to explore and test some of the theoretical questions that emerge from this work.

For the immediate future, Beyer is extending the previous empirical and theoretical work in two directions. One project, in collaboration with researchers both within and beyond the Religious Diversity Project team, is undertaking longitudinal study of participants from the previous projects, and examining the larger question of religious identity formation in Canada while developing a web-based survey for measuring religious identity among a diversity of populations. The other is attempting to develop the theory of religion and globalization in the direction of understanding current global transformations of the structural forms that religion is taking as aspects of a post-Westphalian global circumstance.