



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



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Biography

Sam Reimer is Professor of Sociology at Crandall University in New Brunswick, Canada. His Ph.D. is from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. He was visiting scholar at Baylor University (Texas) in 2005-6, and visiting fellow at the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria in 2013.

Sam is presently co-investigator on a SSHRC-funded study on the role of Christian churches in immigrant settlement and integration (Rich Janzen, PI). He is lead investigator of the Canadian Evangelical Churches Study, which included interviews of over 600 pastors in nearly 500 congregations in Canada. His book based on this study (co-authored by team member Michael Wilkinson), *A Culture of Faith: Evangelical Congregations in Canada*, was published by McGill-Queen's University Press in 2015. He also co-led a team of researchers in a funded three-year study of Ecumenism in Canada. His research has been funded by the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, the Religious Research Association, the University of Notre Dame and Baylor University.

His previous book was *Evangelicals and the Continental Divide* (McGill Queen's, 2003), and recent articles include "Christian Churches and Immigrant Support in Canada" (*Review of Religious Research* 2016), "How Academics view conservative Protestants" (*Sociology of*

Religion 2015), Canadian Christian churches increase in part-time staff” (*Studies in Religion* 2015), “Orthodoxy Niches” (*Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 2011), “Class and Congregations” (*Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 2007), “Lay cooperation in Canada” (*Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, 2004), “Higher education and theological liberalism” (*Sociology of Religion*, 2010), and many other articles and book chapters.

Research Statement

Comparative study of religion in Canada and the U.S. My book, *Evangelicalism and the Continental Divide* (McGill-Queen’s, 2003), was the first academic sociological comparison between evangelicals in Canada and the U.S. I also published “A Look at Cultural Effects on Religiosity” in the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (JSSR 1995; and republished in 2006), followed by “A More Irenic Evangelicalism?” (book chapter, Gaspereau Press, 2000), “A Generic Evangelicalism?” (book chapter, University of Toronto Press, 2000), “Evangelical Protestantism Meets the Continental Divide” (*Political Research Quarterly*, 2002). I co-led a team of researchers who examined the ecumenical impulse among Christians in both countries, resulting in a publication of a special edition of the *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, of which I was co-editor and wrote two articles.

Diversity in U.S. Protestantism. To promote new thinking about the theoretical class-denomination links that have been prominent in the literature since the work of Weber, Troeltsch, and Niebuhr, I have published “Revisiting the Social Sources of American Christianity 1972-1998” (*JSSR*, 2002), “Class and Congregations” (*JSSR* 2007), and “Sect Appeal” (book chapter, Brill 2009). When I was visiting scholar at Baylor University (Texas) in 2005-06, I collected interview data on the demographic diversity of nearly 100 U.S. Protestant congregations, from which I have published “Higher education and theological Liberalism” (*Sociology of Religion*, 2010) and “Orthodoxy Niches” (*JSSR* 2011).

Religious diversity in Canada. I have published “Civility without Compromise” (book chapter, UBC Press, 2011) and “Does Religion Matter?” (book chapter, Brill 2008), which focused on tolerance and religious diversity.

Congregations in Canada. Our forementioned study of evangelical churches, funded by The Centre for Research on Canadian Evangelicalism, which has resulted in four articles in *Church and Faith Trends* (2010-2012), and *A Culture of Faith*, which is the first multi-denominational sociological study of evangelical congregations in Canada. Most recently, I have conducted research on the ways in which Christian congregations are welcoming and supporting immigrants in Canada.