



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



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Biography and Research Statement

Alyshea Cummins is a third year PhD student at the University of Ottawa in Religious Studies under the supervision of Dr. Peter Beyer. She is also a research assistant for Strand One of the Religion and Diversity Project under Dr. Beyer; specifically examining religious identity in Canada. She specializes in Islam, Contemporary Muslim studies, Sociology of Religion, Social/Religious Movements, and Social Change. Cummins' doctoral research examines the Shi'a Nizari Imami Ismaili Muslim community and how they are redefining Islam in the West and was recently awarded a research grant from the Religion and Diversity Project, valuing \$1,000 for her work.

Cummins completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology at the University of Windsor. She then went on to complete her Master's degree in Religion and Culture at Wilfrid Laurier University, where her research focus was on the Ismaili community and their contribution to Pluralism in Canada. While at Wilfrid Laurier University she also examined the refugee resettlement characteristics of two non-Christian minority groups in Canada: the Cambodian Theravada Buddhists and the Ugandan Ismaili Muslims. For her work on this topic she received the Gunn Award (\$1,000), which was presented by the Honourable Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Jason Kenney. Cummins has a passion for teaching and has facilitated seminars at Wilfrid Laurier University for the first year undergraduate class entitled, World Religions II: Eastern Traditions. She has also guest lectured on 'Ismailism' and 'Women in Ismaili thought and practice' at Wilfrid Laurier University and on 'Ismaili thought and practice' and 'Women in Islam' for the third year undergraduate class entitled "Islam" offered at the University of Ottawa.