

Fact Sheet:

Moving Beyond the University: How Research on Religious Diversity in Atlantic Canadian Scholars Can Make a Difference

May 20-21, 2014

Saint Mary's University, Halifax

Organized by:

Cathy Holtmann (University of New Brunswick), Nancy Nason-Clark (University of New Brunswick), Paul Bowlby (Saint Mary's University) and Ruby Ramji (University of Cape Breton).

Faculty Participants:

Alec Soucy, Saint Mary's University
Christopher Austin, Dalhousie University
Anne Marie Dalton, Saint Mary's University
Diana Ginn, Dalhousie University
Mary Hale, Saint Mary's University
David Michels, Dalhousie University
Samuel Reimer, Crandall University
Pat Sikes, Sheffield University
Esther Enns, Saint Mary's University

Community Participants:

Swarna Weerasinghe, Buddhist
Allyson Marsh, Deepwater Church
Robin Arthur, spiritual diversity
Syedadnan Hussain, Muslim

Student Participants:

Trevor Murphy, Saint Mary's University
Caitlin Russell, Memorial University of Newfoundland
Ella Sentse, University of New Brunswick
Jolyne Roy, University of New Brunswick
Ashely Crouch, Saint Mary's University
Will Pearson, Atlantic School of Theology and Saint Mary's University
Amanda LaPointe, Saint Mary's University
Pamela Andrews, Wilfrid Laurier University
Patricia MacAulay, Wilfrid Laurier University

Event Description:

The workshop was organized by members of the *Religion and Diversity Project* team working in universities in Atlantic Canada: Cathy Holtmann and Nancy Nason-Clark from the University of New Brunswick; Paul Bowlby, from Saint Mary's University; and Ruby Ramji from Cape Breton University. The primary grant for the Workshop came from the *Religion and Diversity Project*. For the second year Saint Mary's University matched the project grant. Additional funding was from the New England-Maritimes Region of the American Academy of Religion, the Sociology Department at the University of New Brunswick, and the Christianity and Culture Program at the University of Prince Edward Island, as well as a research assistantship in the Religious Studies Department at Saint Mary's University to support Trevor Murphy's contributions to the workshop organization

The workshop focused on professional development for graduate and undergraduate honours students, featuring sessions on preparing for field work; moving beyond the university; knowledge transfer and career opportunities; publishing; and the application process for academic jobs and grants.

Results and Dissemination:

The organizers of this third workshop on the study of religion in Atlantic Canada are pleased to see a steady increase in participants over the years, an indication that networking among scholars of religion has improved. We also feel that we have created a solid structure for the workshop with a strong focus on student training with ample input from regional faculty. Paul Bowlby's retirement from Saint Mary's University and Cathy Holtmann's move to the University of Saskatchewan left a void in organizational leadership for the workshop which was not filled, despite efforts to encourage other members of the Religion and Diversity Project in Atlantic Canada to take on this project.