

**Fact Sheet:**

*New Religious Movements, Minorities, and Media*

March 17-18, 2016

University of Montréal, Montréal

**Organized by:**

Solange Lefebvre (Université de Montréal, Chair for the Management of Cultural and Religious Diversity)

**Participants:**

Alain Bouchard (Université Laval/Sainte-Foy College)

Martin Geoffroy (CÉGEP Édouard Montpetit)

Massimo Introvigne (Université pontificale salésienne de Turin)

Mike Kropveld (Info Sect/Cult)

Dominic Laroche (Université Laval)

Solange Lefebvre (Université de Montréal)

David Michels (Dalhousie University)

Susan Palmer (Concordia University/McGill University)

Guy-Robert St-Arnaud (Université de Montréal)

Sara Teinturier (Université de Montréal)

Fabrizio Vecoli (Université de Montréal)

Daniel Westbrook (Fuller Theological Seminary)

**Student Participation:**

Mathilde Vanasse-Pelletier (University of Montreal)

Maria Alekseevskaja (University of Ottawa)

Connor Steele (University of Ottawa)

Lydwine Olivier (University of Montreal)

**Event Description:**

Funded by the *Religion and Diversity Project* (University of Ottawa) and the Chair for the Management of Cultural and Religious Diversity (Université de Montréal), this workshop brought together nationally and internationally recognized experts to examine new religious movements, minorities and media. In recent years, collective anxiety surrounding religious identities seems mainly to be concerned with “world religions”, especially Islam. However, another religious issue is also catching public attention, causing concern and attracting the interest of scholars: new religious movements (NRMs), frequently labelled as “cults”. With this framework in mind, the aim of the conference was to explore the status of minority religious groups in the contemporary globalized context. More specifically, the workshop considered media treatment of small religious minorities, and the theoretical, methodological and conceptual issues surrounding the study of NRMs and varieties of media sources.

**Results Dissemination:**

Special issue of the “Regulating Religion” journal. Articles by Maria Alekseevskaya, Lydwine Olivier and Connor Steele. Edited by Amélie Barras and Mathilde Vanasse-Pelletier

Special issue of “Studies in Religion” journal. Articles by Massimo Introvigne, David Michels, Susan Palmer, Mathilde Vanasse-Pelletier, Fabrizio Vecoli and Donald Westbrook. Edited by Solange Lefebvre and Mathilde Vanasse-Pelletier.