

Fact Sheet:

Norms of Religious Minority Participation: Fields of Practice
November 28-29, 2014
University of Victoria, Victoria

Organized by:

Avigail Eisenberg (University of Victoria), Paul Bramadat (University of Victoria), Pamela Klassen (University of Toronto) and Patti Lenard (University of Ottawa)

Administrative Coordination & Support:

Robbyn Lanning (University of Victoria), Bonnie Sawyer (University of Victoria), Matthew Riddett (University of Victoria), Joy Austin (University of Victoria)

Participants:

Benjamin Berger (Osgoode Hall Law School, York University)
John Borrows (University of Victoria)
Tufyal Choudhury (University of Sussex)
Steven Corcoran (RCMP, Integrated National Security Enforcement Team)
Arlene Macdonald (University of Texas – Medical Branch)
Baljit Nagra (University of Ottawa)
Monika Naus (British Columbia Centre for Disease Control/University of British Columbia)
Cameron Owens (University of Victoria)
Sheryl Reimer-Kirkham (Trinity Western University)
Monique Scheer (University of Tübingen)
Troy Sebastian (Ktunaxa First Nation)
Jeremy Webber (University of Victoria)

Student Participation:

Emilie Audy (Université de Montréal)
Giomny Ruiz Fernandez (Université de Montréal)
Matthew Riddett (University of Victoria)
Marisa Karyl Franz (University of Toronto)
Megan Harvey (University of Victoria)
Meaghan Weatherdon (University of Toronto)

Event Description:

An international conference on ‘Norms of Religious Minority Participation: Fields of Practice’ was held at the University of Victoria on November 27-29, 2014 and was co-organized by 3 members of the *Religion and Diversity Project* (Avigail Eisenberg, Paul Bramadat and Pamela Klassen) and Patti Lenard (University of Ottawa). The conference was funded by the *Religion and Diversity Project* (\$15,000); SSHRC Connections (\$12,000) and various sources at University of Victoria, University

of Toronto and University of Ottawa. The conference considered some of the successes, failures, benefits and challenges of the participation of religious minorities in decision making in different contexts or what we call ‘fields of practice’.

Our aim was to reach four main audiences: faculty; students; policy practitioners and the public. To meet this aim and to have an impact on the community by stimulating a more sustained intellectual conversation about religious minority participation, the conference was organized and timed to include four additional university- and community-wide lectures delivered by three of the conference participants.

These events included:

- 1) The CSRS/European Union Centre for Excellence lecture delivered by Monique Scheer. Professor at the University of Tübingen, on ‘The Emergence of Centres of Islamic Theology in Germany’ (Thurs Nov 26)
- 2) The Bishop’s Distinguished Lecture delivered by Charles Taylor on ‘Secular Futures’ (Thurs Nov 27 evening)
- 3) The Victoria Colloquium delivered by Charles Taylor on ‘Some Crises of Democracy’ (Fri Nov 28)
- 4) The Lansdowne lecture, delivered by Ben Berger on ‘Belonging to Law: Religious Difference, Secularism and Civic Inclusion’ (Mon Dec 1)

Results Dissemination:

*** *this first item was published before the event:* Avigail Eisenberg, Paul Bramadat, Pamela Klassen, and Patti Lenard. “Norms of Religious Minority Participation,” *Centre for Studies in Religion and Society Newsletter*, Volume 23, 2014 – 2015, p. 10.

Robbyn Lanning “Norms of Religious Minority Participation: Fields of Practice,” 2014-2015 *Centre for Studies in Religion and Society Annual Report*, p. 5.