

Fact Sheet:

When Prayers Are Not Enough: Religion, Gender and Family Violence

September 13-14, 2016

The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research, University of New Brunswick

Organized by:

Cathy Holtmann (Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research) and Nancy Nason-Clark (University of New Brunswick)

Participants:

Pascale Fournier (University of Ottawa)
Lois Mitchell (Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches)
Traci West (Drew University Theological School)
Aamir Jamal (St. Thomas University)
Sue McKenzie-Mohr (St. Thomas University)
Susan Palmer (Concordia University)
Stephen McMullin (Acadia University)
Barbara Fisher-Townsend (University of New Brunswick)

Student Involvement and Activity:

Emma Robinson (University of New Brunswick)
Sam Hamza (University of Ottawa)
Jolyne Roy (University of New Brunswick)
Victoria Snyers (Free University of Brussels)
Fatima Tajini (University of Ottawa)
Yael Machtinger (York University)
Crestina Matta (University of New Brunswick)
Manila Tanafranca (Mount Saint Vincent University)

Event Description:

The issue of violence within religious families has attracted considerable public attention in recent years in Canada due to some high profile legal cases, in particular the Shafia family murder trial and the dispute concerning the use of religious law in family arbitration cases in Ontario. It was also alluded to in the 2015 federal election campaign when the Conservatives proposed to set up a “barbaric cultural practices” hotline to protect women and girls. The public rhetoric concerning family violence usually focuses on immigrant or visible minority families – many of whom belong to the growing non-Christian religious groups in the country, especially Muslims. This workshop was designed to address some of these issues by bringing together

scholars from diverse disciplinary perspectives working on various topics located at the intersection of gender, religion and family violence.

Results:

An edited collection is being developed based on the workshop presentations, to be submitted to Brill Academic Press.