

**Fact Sheet:**

*Immigrant Women, Social Networks and Religion*

Catherine Holtmann

Graduate Student Grant, 2012-2013

**Project Description and goals:**

My doctoral research was an exploration of the lives of Muslim and Christian immigrant women in the Maritimes and the strengths and vulnerabilities they bring to the settlement process. It was a mixed methods study which compared that differences that ethnicity, religion and time make in terms of women's utilization of formal and informal social support networks after arrival. The provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are currently experiencing an unprecedented wave of migration and this was the only study of immigrant women in the region that considers the role of religion in the settlement process. The study also contributed to contemporary debates as to whether or not women who experienced multiple structures of oppression are at greater risk for domestic violence in the Canadian context.

**Methodology:**

Descriptive characteristics of the sample participants:

- 31 Muslim women from 15 countries;
- 55 Christian women from 13 countries;
- Average length of time after arrival in Canada was about 4 years; and
- 19 workers from 16 agencies or organizations that work with women.

Five conference papers with the preliminary results of the qualitative analysis have been accepted for presentation.

**Dissemination:**

Holtmann, C. (2016). Christian and Muslim Immigrant Women in the Canadian Maritimes: Considering their Strengths and Vulnerabilities in Responding to Domestic Violence. *Studies in Religion Sciences Religieuses* 45(3) 397-414.

Holtmann, C., & Tramonte, L. (2014). Tracking the Emotional Cost of Immigration: Ethno-Religious Differences and Women's Mental Health, *Journal of International Migration and Integration*. 15(4): 633-654.

Holtmann, C. (in press). Women seeking safety: Nonviolent responses to intimate partner violence. In H. Eaton and L.M. Levesque, (eds.) *Advancing Nonviolence and Social*

*Transformation: New Perspectives on Nonviolence Theories*, London, UK, Equinox Publishing.

Holtmann, C. (2016). "Faith and the Fisheries: Religion and Foreign Workers," paper presented at the annual meeting for the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Atlanta, GA, 30 October.

Holtmann, C. (2016). "Who Cares? Religious Immigrant Women, Social Networks and Family Violence," paper presented at the workshop When Prayers are not Enough: Religion, Gender and Family Violence, MMFC, Fredericton, NB, 14 September.

Holtmann, C. and Ganong, J. (2016). "Religious Diversity in Canada and Secular Shelter Workers' Response to Domestic Violence," paper presented at the annual meeting for the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Seattle, WA, 20 August.

Holtmann, C. (2016). "Contesting the Norms: Gender Roles and Immigrant Women in the Maritimes," paper presented at the Atlantic Immigration Conference, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS. May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Holtmann, C. (2015). "Religion and Gender Role Shifts across the Immigrant Lifecourse," paper presented at the annual meeting for the Religious Research Association, Newport Beach, CA. October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Holtmann, C., Roy, J., Nickerson, G. & Nason-Clark, N. (2015). "Picturing Diversity," photo essays included in a visual sociology exhibition at the annual meeting of the Canadian Sociological Association at the Congress of the Humanities and the Social Sciences, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON.

Holtmann, C. (2015). "Immigrant Women, Faith and Domestic Violence: A Focus on Strengths," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion at the Congress of the Humanities and the Social Sciences, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON.

Holtmann, C. (2014). "Watching Family Violence: An Assessment of Using Video in Focus Group Discussions," paper presented as part of a panel on Visual Research Methods at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN.

Holtmann, C. (2014). "Considering Ethno-Religious Diversity in Shelter Workers' Response to Domestic Violence," paper presented at the RESOLVE Manitoba Research Day, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB.

Holtmann, C. (2014). “Contesting the Boundaries: Gender Roles and Immigrant Women in the Maritimes,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Sociological Association at the Congress of the Humanities and the Social Sciences, Brock University, St. Catharine’s, ON.

Holtmann, C. (2014). “Muslim Women’s Social Networks: Crossing Multiple Boundaries,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion at the Congress of the Humanities and the Social Sciences, Brock University, St. Catharine’s, ON.

Holtmann, C. (2014). “Calling Women to Safety: Religion, Gender and Domestic Violence,” paper presented as part of a panel on gender for the conference, Nonviolence: Weapon of the Strong: Advancing Nonviolence, Spirituality and Social Transformation, at St. Paul University, Ottawa, ON.