



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ

The Religion and Diversity Project/ Religion et diversité

Graduate Student Workshop Series 1, Session 2

May 15-16, 2012

Université de Montréal

List of Participants

Name	Institution	Supervisor
Audy, Emilie	Université de Montréal	Valérie Amiriaux
Gagnon-Tessier, Louis-Charles	Université de Montréal	Solange Lefebvre
Holtmann, Cathy	University of New Brunswick	Nancy Nason-Clark
Michels, David	Dalhousie University	Christopher Helland
Mosurinjohn, Sharday	Queen's University	Pamela Dickey Young
Rangdrol, David	University of Ottawa	André Laliberté
Riikonen, Tanja	Université de Montréal	Patrice Brodeur
Turriff, Shaun	Concordia University	Donald Boisvert
Van Arragon, Leo	University of Ottawa	Lori Beaman

Facilitator	Institution
Kim Knott	Lancaster University



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

Graduate Student Workshop Series

Workshop 1:2

Engaging research on religion and diversity beyond the academy

The second session of the first graduate student workshop series was held at the Université de Montréal May 15-16, 2012, facilitated by Kim Knott (Lancaster University). The workshop was a terrific success, bringing together an already engaged cohort of students within the project, to continue their research dialogues and further mentorship by RDP team members.

Graduate students were asked to consider the issue of engaging research with wider, non-academic audiences. Students and the facilitator discussed and sought to answer the following questions. Why, how, and to whom should we present our research? Are there people/organizations with whom we could work to exchange our knowledge for mutual gain? What difference could our research make beyond the academy, and who might benefit from it? How do we go about identifying the potential benefits of our research and its wider connections? How do we develop a strategy for engagement and communication, and for assessing the impact of our research?

Students were asked to present their research as though to a non-academic audience, with space for feedback and discussion from the group concerning broader social and cultural relevance of their research projects. They also engaged in developing a poster to summarize their topic, methods and findings, for a wide audience. In addition to participating in the sessions of the workshop, students also ate together, took full advantage of the breaks to get to know each other better, and enjoyed the opportunity to meet some other members of the project team in Montreal.

A questionnaire was circulated in the workshop information package, which asked each student to provide feedback on logistical organization (i.e. communication in preparation to the event) as well as event organization (i.e. agenda, session structure).

Students were asked to provide suggestions for the next workshop, which are synthesized here: exploration of ethical issues and REB application processes; practice writing abstracts for conference papers; academic best practices; processes for submitting articles for peer-review; writing successful funding applications; and discussion of methodologies used by the students.

The final session of the workshop series is being held at the Donald Gordon Conference Centre in Kingston, ON facilitated by Nancy Nason-Clark from October 22-23, 2012.