

Innovation Funding Project Report and Student Stipend Report

Pamela Dickey Young

Project Title: *Religion, Gender and Sexuality among Youth in Canada*

1. Project Goals

Strand 3 member Pamela Dickey Young was awarded \$7811.60 to begin work on The Religion, Gender and Sexuality among Youth in Canada project. As the project progressed, Donald Boisvert and Nancy Nason-Clark stepped back and will join the project more fully again after the data has been collected. Our goals for year one of the project were: creation of questionnaire; recruitment of participants, beginning data gathering phase.

The project has four primary aims:

- To explore the constructions and management strategies undertaken by young adults (aged 18-30) both religious and non-religious concerning their sexual identities, values, and choices;
- To examine the significant social, cultural, and political factors that inform the above-mentioned processes;
- To study how these young adults manage their religious, sexual, and gender identities;
- To generate rich qualitative and quantitative data that will contribute new knowledge to academic and policy debates on religion, youth, sexuality, and gender.

2. Researchers involved

- Pamela Dickey Young, PI
- Heather Shipley, Collaborator
- Ian Cuthbertson RA.

Nancy Nason-Clark and Donald Boisvert both attended the workshop and initial research meeting with Andrew Kam-Tuck Yip in October 2011. The Strand 3 members present also met at this time which allowed us to intensify the impact of funding through the MCRI to benefit this project and further MCRI goals, specifically related to Strand 3's objectives regarding gender and sexuality as flashpoints in debates about religious diversity.

3. Rationale

Very little is known about youth and religion in Canada, and virtually nothing about the relationship between youth religion and sexuality. This project builds on resources from Andrew Kam-Tuck Yip's Religion, Youth and Sexuality (UK) research, a project which has recently ended. A goal of this research is to develop a data set in order to understand the relationship of religion and sexuality among youth in Canada. Our data will also allow comparison with the research results of Yip's project, to enable ongoing international collaboration as part of the MCRI project.

4. Methods

The project is a web-based survey aimed at youth aged 18-25 living in Canada. ON the survey participants are asked if they are willing to be contacted for a further interview and/or to provide a video diary.

The survey is being conducted through SurveyMonkey and will be analyzed using SPSS.

5. Ethics

Ethics clearance was obtained from Queen's University (January 2012) and the University of Ottawa (February 2012).

6. Summary of Activities

Year one

- Collaboration with Andrew Kam-Tuck Yip (University of Nottingham) on survey design and project as a whole
- Web-based survey designed
- Ethics permissions obtained from Queen's University and the University of Ottawa
- Developed <http://www.queensu.ca/religion/Faculty/research/dickeyyoung.html> web site:
- Posted initial survey on SurveyMonkey
- Conducted a small study of 30 participants from whom we requested feedback on the questionnaire
- Assembled an Advisory Committee of 4 members who also provided feedback on the questionnaire. (Advisory Committee has met once by Skype.)
- Revised survey according to feedback and obtained additional ethics approvals for these changes

- Had the survey translated into French
- Survey went live on July 4, 2012 (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RGSYEnglish>; <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RGSJFrancais>).
- Developed materials and lists for recruitment of participants, including advertising postcards
- Pamela Dickey Young and Heather Shipley have been invited to University of Nottingham (funded by University of Nottingham) to present our project and preliminary findings.

7. Provisional Findings

The survey used in Andrew Kam-Tuck Yip’s project had to be adapted for the Canadian context.

It is too early and the sample is too small for much analysis of the data, but one thing we have noted was the number of people who wanted to complete the survey but who did not consider themselves religious. This resulted in a change to the categories where participants are asked to define themselves in relation to religion.

Next steps are to continue recruitment efforts, begin analysis of the data and set up follow up interviews with individual participants. Questions for the interviews will be developed based on responses elicited from the online survey.

8. Outputs

- Literature review
- Completed survey in both English and French available on SurveyMonkey
- Papers for presentation at the University of Nottingham
- Advertising postcards

9. Finances

Breakdown of Expenses				
Student Funding*				
	Amount	Name	Dates	Project
Student Stipends				
Student Assistantship	\$5000	Ian Cuthbertson	Sept.	Assistance

			2011-July 2012	with ethics review, literature review, website, Facebook pages, etc.
Research Funding				
	Amount	Project	Dates	Specifics**
Funding for Research Costs	276.85	Postcards/recruitment	July 2012	
Funding for Research Travel	1340.74	RGSY workshop	November 3, 2011	
Funding for Administrative/Supply Costs Related to Research				