# Priority Research Areas - Strand 3

**Project**

Bibliographies on Violence and Religion, Religion and Domestic Violence

**Project Goals**

Strand 3, of the MCRI Project, identified the interplay between violence and religion as one of its priority areas for investigation. They recognized that the literature on violence and religion is developing in ways that would never have been considered possible a decade ago. And that it was accumulating at a rapid pace. In order to begin the preparation of a broad-based bibliography on Violence and Religion, the team members were asked to think about how their work interweaves with this priority area of study. Team members themselves represent a wide range of interest areas—even within the topic of religion and violence.

In the first of our bibliographies, Nancy Nason-Clark asked three colleagues who are working with her, to identify some recent publications that are informing their work (or publications reporting on their work) under the general title of Domestic Violence and Religion.

**Researchers and Students involved**

- Nancy Nason-Clark, Barbara Fisher-Townsend, Steve McMullin
- Catherine Holtmann (Student)

**Outputs**

A bibliography on religion and domestic violence.

**Project**

Bibliographies on Violence and Religion, Defining and addressing some gaps

**Project Goals**

A student was hired to compile an extensive bibliography: first, generally on the topic of religion and violence and then, more specifically, on the intersections of religion and violence with questions of sex, gender and sexuality. Out of this bibliography and out of their conversations with one another, we

identified more precise research themes for the Strand as a whole and planning for a workshop or some other form of collaboration will begin.

**Researchers and Students involved**

- Donald Boisvert and Pamela Dickey Young
- Jillian Burford-Grinnell (Student)

**Outputs**

A comprehensive bibliography and a set of research questions on violence and religion.

**Finances**

| Breakdown of Expenses | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Student Funding\*** | | | | |
| | Amount | Name | Dates | Project |
| Student Stipends | $6000 | Jillian Burford-Grinnell | | Bibliographies on Violence and Religion, Defining and addressing some gaps |

**Projet**

La régulation du port du nikab dans les pays musulmans et occidentaux

**Objectifs du projet**

Explorer plus en profondeur la relation entre les aspirations politiques du Québec vers une "laïcité ouverte" et la concrétisation juridique de ce paradigme en ce qui concerne le port du nikab dans l'espace public québécois. Analyser le projet de loi 94 (*Loi établissant les balises encadrant les demandes d'accommodement dans l'Administration gouvernementale et dans certains établissement*), lequel a été présenté par la Ministre de la Justice, Madame Kathleen Weil, à l'Assemblée nationale en mars 2010.

**Chercheurs et étudiants impliqués**

- Pascale Fournier

- Erica See and Anastasia Tataryn (étudiantes)

**Méthode**

Ce projet nécessite l'utilisation de méthodes de recherche conventionnelles. Ainsi, nous tenterons d'obtenir et d'analyser divers mémoires et décisions en provenance des banques de données juridiques.

**Résultats**

La publication du chapitre:

**Fournier**, **Pascale, and Erica See.** 2014. "The 'Naked Face' of Secular Exclusion: Bill-94 and the Privatization of Belief." In *Religion in the Public Sphere: Canadian Case Studies,* edited by Solange Lefebvre and Lori G. Beaman, 275-292.Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

**Finances**

| Breakdown of Expenses | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Student Funding* | | | | |
| | Amount | Name | Dates | Project |
| Student Stipends | | | | |
| Student Assistantship | $5000 | Erica See | Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 | Nikab article: **Fournier**, **Pascale, and Erica See.** 2014. "The 'Naked Face' of Secular Exclusion: Bill-94 and the Privatization of Belief." In *Religion in the Public Sphere: Canadian Case Studies,* edited by Solange Lefebvre and Lori G. Beaman, 275-292.Toronto: University of Toronto Press. |

**Project**

Highlighting Marginalized Voices

**Project Goals**

- To consider the variety of ways that Strand 3 members have researched, or written about, marginalized voices within the study of religion.
- To consider the variety of ways that MCRI-linked non-Strand 3 members have researched, or written about, marginalized voices within the study of religion.
- Identify other scholars in Canada and elsewhere researching, or publishing in this area.
- Articulate gaps in the current literature as it relates to marginalized voices and religion.
- Set out a possible agenda for Strand 3 as it considers how to fill this gap.

**Researchers and Students involved**

- Nancy Nason-Clark and Pascale Fournier

**Outputs**

- Research/publications of Strand 3 members on Religion and Marginalized Voices.
- Research/publications of MCRI members on Religion and Marginalized Voices.
- Research publications of other scholars on Religion and Marginalized Voices.
- List of Priority Areas for Strand 3 (with project ideas) on Religion and Marginalized Voices.

**Finances**

| Breakdown of Expenses | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Student Funding*** | | | | |
| | Amount | Name | Dates | Project |
| Student Stipends | | | | |
| Student Assistantship | $1000.00 | | | |
| | $500.00 | Cathy Holtmann | | Highlighting Marginalized Voices |

| Research Funding | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Amount | Project | Dates | Specifics** |
| Funding for Research Costs | | | | |
| Funding for Research Travel | | | | |
| Funding for Administrative/Supply Costs Related to Research | | | | |

**Project**

Topics on Modern Muslim Women Database

**Project Goals**

To examine the history of the hijab, burqa and niqab as well as the way Muslim communities are responding to the question of governing women's bodies and how these communities are changing in response to policies being implemented in the countries in which they live (where they are Muslim minorities as well as in countries that are predominantly Muslim). The controversy over the niqab is an excellent hot spot to examine the issue of gender and its relation between human rights and religion. Arguments regarding women's agency in wearing the niqab versus the idea that the niqab is a symbol of women's oppression will be interrogated. Through this exploration we hope to create a new theoretical model that can overcome the dilemma between religious freedom and the impact of law and policy on religious practices.

**Researchers and Students involved**

- Rubina Ramji
- Lucy MacDonald and Alyssa MacDougall (Students)

**Methods**

The database was formatted and the research assistant performed a literature review of both historical and current sources regarding the niqab and hijab. The total amount of $4,000 has been spent on research assistants to create and maintain the database.

The database is not exportable in an Excel file as there are about sixty nodes that cross-reference the data (country, law, policy etc). I have hired a research assistant with external funds to restructure all the

information into a new format – it will either be copied into Excel or entered into RefShare at this point but I do not think all the data will be sharable.

**Outputs**

The "Topics on Modern Muslim Women Database" database offers over 300 sources including articles and media articles dealing with topics on Muslim women.

**Finances**

| Budget and Student Information | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Breakdown of Expenses | | | | |
| Student Funding | | | | |
| | Amount | Name | Dates | Project |
| Student Research Stipends | | | | |
| Student Assistantship | $3000 | Lucy MacDonald- Research Assistant | Fall 2010-Sept 2011 (project continuing) | Priority Research Area Grant – assistant researched and created database on niqab and burqa |
| | $1000 | Alyssa MacDougall | January 2012 June 2013 to present | Priority Research Area Grant – French articles for database and converting the data into sharable format |
| Research Funding | | | | |
| | Amount | Project | Dates | Specifics |
| Strand 3 Priority Research Area Grant | $4000 | Niqab Database- How the wearing of the niqab has evolved in different | July 2013 | $4000 has been spent on research assistants to create and maintain the database |

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| | | religions and how it is being regarded in the West today. | | |
| Co-Investigator Grant | | | | |
| Total | | | | |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Student Research Assistance Funding | $4000 | | | *See 'Strand 3 Priority Research Area Grant' |
| Undergrad research assistants | | | | |
| Funding for Administrative/Supply Costs Related to Research | $199 | Priority Research Area Grant- create database on niqab and burqa | May 2011 (project continuing) | NVIVO Student Version software for database (1 year license) |
| Permissions | | | | |
| Total | | | | |
| Shortfall (covered by other sources) | | | | |

**Project**

Innovative Approaches to Teaching and Learning about Religious Diversity

**Project Goals**

To incorporate a variety of technologies into the undergraduate sociology classroom in order to help students move from tolerance and accommodation to deep respect and celebration of religio-cultural differences.

**Methods**

In three separate courses introducing the social scientific study of religion we employed blogs and videos, in addition to other online resources, in order to: enhance student engagement in class and online, introduce scholars of religion and their writing, appeal to a variety of learning styles, develop critical assessments of online resources for the study of religion, and encourage critical writing and reading skills. Eighteen videos were made of scholars of religion, including seven from the *Religion and Diversity Project* team, speaking about their research. These videos were used during lectures and incorporated into the instructors' blog for the courses. The seventy-three students who completed the courses were each required to create a blog for posting assignments and were encouraged to embed videos related to their writing, including the option of creating their own videos.

**Researchers and Students involved**

- Nancy Nason-Clark
- Cathy Holtmann (Student)

**Outputs**

1. Personalizing the Study of Religious Diversity: 35 short videos of scholars, religious leaders and adherents on YouTube;
2. Links to the Literature: 25 brief bibliographies for suggested readings to accompany videos from non-team members;
3. A "How To" page with suggestions for using the above resources in university classrooms;
4. A "Tour Guide" video with Nancy and Cathy.

| Breakdown of Expenses | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Student Funding*** | | | | |
| | Amount | Name | Dates | Project |
| Student Stipends | | | | |
| Student Assistantship | $5000.00 | Cathy Holtmann | 02.08.11 – 20.02.12 | Innovative Approaches to Teaching and Learning about Religious Diversity |

| Research Funding | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Amount | Project | Dates | Specifics** |
| Funding for Research Costs | | | | |
| Funding for Research Travel | | | | |
| Funding for Administrative/Supply Costs Related to Research | | | | |