

Grants awarded 2010-2011

Congratulations to the following team members, whose applications for funding under the Grants to Co-investigators research program, were successful. The *Religion and Diversity Project* is pleased to have funded the following research projects for 2010-2011.

Grants Awarded Priority Research Areas

Strand One:

The proposed project seeks to create a database of representations of religious identities and diversity in a specific segment of the Canadian media, namely the internet.

Strand Two:

The main aim of this project is to address questions about the definition and delimitation of religion in the context of Canadian and British prisons.

Strand Three:

Strand Three will focus this year on the Intersections of Religion, Gender and Violence and Highlighting Marginalized Voices as priority research themes. The strand projects will combine literature searches with the compilation of extensive bibliographies, analysis of Bill 94 in Québec, and the creation of a database with extensive resources regarding debates over wearing the niqab.

Strand Four:

The focus of this project for the year is to create an extensive annotated bibliography of research on religion, law and the concepts of obligation and commandment in liberal democracies.

Grants awarded to Co-investigators

Rukhsana Ahmed, University of Ottawa

The main objective of this proposed research is twofold: a) to investigate health beliefs of Muslim immigrant women in Canada, and b) discuss implications for developing culturally and religiously appropriate health care practices for this population group.

Donald Boisvert, Concordia University

I propose to study the current debate within the Anglican Church of Canada with respect to the broad issue of same-sex relationships, more specifically the blessing of same-sex marriages and the ordination of LGBT clergy. The main aim of this research is to look at the ways in which LGBT persons are talked about and portrayed on both sides of this debate.

Avigail Eisenberg, University of Victoria

To explore how religious diversity is understood, represented and managed in democratic contexts are amongst the central tasks of The Religion and Diversity Project. Here I propose to explore the relation between religious identification and the norms surrounding citizen participation. The research will be conducted through a critical examination of primary and secondary literature and will focus on assessing the lessons to be learned about different forms of participation from Canadian case studies.

Anver Emon, University of Toronto

Research agenda will: provide brief introduction to how Christian and Jewish feminist movements historically have contended with the role of the male scholar as feminist authority; provide an overview of the contributions of Muslim male scholars have made to the agenda of Islamic feminism; critique the works of Muslim male scholars for the implicit limits they permit on the capacity of the law to change. This research will further the discourse on Islamic feminism at a time when questions of Islam, gender, and equality have come to the forefront of legislative and policy circles in North America and Europe.

Rubina Ramji, Cape Breton University

I will examine how Canadian Muslim youth, living in a post 9/11 world, are constructing their identities in relation to often hostile and demeaning media representations of Islam and its followers. Given how global events have specifically affected Muslim images in the media, this research wishes to address the role of media and its impact on the adaptation and transformation of self-identity amongst Canadian Muslim immigrant youth.