

Fact Sheet:

Religious Diversity in Atlantic Canada: Building Collaborative Research Capacity for the Present and the Future.

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Saint Mary's University, Halifax

Organized by:

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Participants:

Anne Marie Dalton (Saint Mary's University)
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Stephen McMullin (Acadian University)
Thom Parkhill (St. Thomas University)
Alex Soucy (Saint Mary's University)

Student Participants:

Trevor Murphy, Saint Mary's University
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Caitlin Downie, University of Ottawa,
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Micheline Hughes, Memorial University of Newfoundland
Caitlin Russell, Memorial University of Newfoundland
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Event Description:

The inaugural workshop on the study of religion in Atlantic Canada (2012) was intended to begin the formation of a network of scholars of religion in the region. Religion and Diversity team members as well as faculty with religion research programs from Halifax and Sydney, Nova Scotia, Fredericton and Moncton, New Brunswick and St. John's, Newfoundland kept in contact throughout the following year both electronically and at conferences and meetings within Canada and abroad. Graduate students who took part in the first workshop also maintained contact.

The second workshop on the study of religion in Atlantic Canada was designed to bring together faculty and students in the region in order to share their experiences of collaborative and multidisciplinary research on religion as well as the results of this research.

The theme of collaboration was broadly defined – this could be research collaboration with other scholars of religion, it could be inter-disciplinary collaboration between scholars which included religion and it could also be research collaboration with various members of religious groups or with a variety of community groups among which religious groups have a role. The objective of the workshop was to showcase on-going research and explore how networking among scholars of religion in the Atlantic provinces can be enhanced.

Results Dissemination:

The *Religion and Diversity Project* has had a significant academic impact in the Atlantic region by sponsoring the two graduate workshops held at Saint Mary's University. We have drawn participants and attendees from multiple academic disciplines across the region and created both a lively interest and engagement among faculty researching religious diversity. At the conclusion to the workshop several scholars were discussing how to find new sources of funding and whether or not it would be economically viable to hold a similar or expanded workshop at Memorial University of Newfoundland or another regional university. It was important to see students engaging with faculty on their thesis topics and students who had not participated talking about how they would do so next time the opportunity arose. The objective of the workshop was to build scholarly networks across the region among faculty and students. Thanks to the grants from the *Religion and Diversity Project* along with support from several other universities, that networking has expanded dramatically.