



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ

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Bio and Research Statement

Steven Tomlins is a PhD Candidate at the University of Ottawa in Religious Studies working under the supervision of Lori G. Beaman. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts at the University of Prince Edward Island with a major in Religious Studies and a double-minor in Political Studies and Art History, graduating with the highest academic standing in the fourth year of his program. For his Master's degree, obtained at the University of Ottawa, Tomlins wrote a thesis consisting of a discourse analysis on New Atheist literature. His current research deals with atheist communities in a religiously diverse Canada, and how the frameworks (official and practical) of 'multiculturalism' relate to atheism. Along with Lori G. Beaman he is presently editing a book based on a workshop they organized titled "Atheist Identities: Spaces and Social Contexts," which brought together a multidisciplinary group of international scholars to critically assess and understand atheism and 'religious nones' in Western societies from a non-theological and non-polemic foundation. He is also working with Spencer Culham Bullivant on organizing a book for publication called "The Atheist Bus Campaign: Global Manifestations and Responses;" each chapter will focus on a country that experienced an offshoot of the 2008-2009 'Atheist Bus Campaign' that featured the slogan – or a variation of the slogan – "There's Probably No God. Now Stop Worrying And Enjoy Your Life." Besides atheism, Tomlins is also interested in religious diversity in Canada, and the intersection of blasphemy laws and freedom of expression in the West.