

Innovation Funding Project Report and Student Stipend Report
Nancy Nason-Clark

Project Title: *Religion and Diversity in the Classroom and Beyond*

1. Project Goals

To develop, test and refine further resources related to the teaching of religious diversity in the classroom setting and to make these available on the RDP website.

2. Researchers and Students Involved

Nancy Nason-Clark, Cathy Holtmann, Leo Van Arragon, Giomny Ruiz, Jolyne Roy, Gloria Nickerson, Srijita Sarkar, and Jennifer Ganong.

3. Summary of Activities and Outputs

Picturing Diversity

- A series of photo essays portraying different aspects of religious diversity have been created. General instructions on how to use the photo essays along with some questions introduce this set of resources on the RDP website. Cathy provided a description of how she has used a photo essay in undergraduate teaching. Each photo essay features 4 or 5 photographs accompanied by links to: a general synopsis of the story behind the pictures; a journalistic interview with people connected to the photo essay; specific questions about this photo essay for undergraduate students to consider; and a list of academic texts for further study produced by members of the Religion and Diversity Project team.
- Video clips from two different religious leaders panels are available on the RDP website. One was hosted at UNB and the clips feature leaders from Christian, Muslim, and Buddhist groups commenting on the documentary “I Believe You: Faith’s Response to Domestic Violence.” The other took place during the workshop on the study of religion in Atlantic Canada. The clips feature four religious leaders (Christian, Muslim and Buddhist) speaking about the implications of the growth in religious diversity in Atlantic Canada as well as their perspectives on the changing nature of religious participation.

- A “how to” guide for organizing a religious leaders forum was created along with a list of reasons why this is an effective teaching and learning activity.
- The photo essays were featured in a Visual Sociology exhibit at the annual meeting of the Canadian Sociological Association during Congress 2015 at the University of Ottawa.
- Gloria Nickerson and Jolyne Roy presented their paper, “Visualizing diversity: lessons from exploring photo-essays of lived religion,” based on the photo essays they helped to create at the Canadian Sociological Association during Congress 2015 at the University of Ottawa.
- A paper based on a photo essay, “There but Not There: Picturing Religion and Family Violence,” has been accepted for presentation (by Cathy and Nancy) at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in October 2015.

Teaching Diversity

- A bibliography in French and English on Islam and Domestic Violence was added to the “Tools” section of the RDP website.
- A video features doctoral candidate Jolyne Roy from the Sociology Department at UNB speaks about her experiences in creating the bibliography and how that led to changes in her undergraduate teaching.
- Jolyne presented a paper based on her work at the workshop on the study of religion in Atlantic Canada in 2014.
- Videos and a “guide for teachers” were developed by Leo Van Arragon featuring scholars from the Living with Religious Diversity conference held in Delhi, India in 2013. The topics include: liberal secularism and the basis for democracy and human rights; religion as a basis for both hegemonic power and for language of resistance; and plurality and pluralism.
- Giomny H. Ruiz Fernandez has shared some of the resources he has used in teaching about Islamophobia in undergraduate courses, including an exercise which uses an advertisement to focus student thinking about the ban on minarets in Switzerland; and a video clip from a film that raises awareness about stereotypes concerning Muslims.
- Religious Mapping is an undergraduate student project developed by Kim Knott at the University of Leeds. The program is now under the direction of Melanie Prideaux and there is a link on the RDP website to a video introducing the activity and links to the project requirements. Dr. Prideaux has indicated her willingness to pair up with a Canadian university and mentor/advise someone

interested in carrying out this activity. The Religious Mapping teaching resource includes a list of Kim Knott's publications that refer to religious mapping and the community religions project as well as links to websites that she produced based on research on immigrants and religion in the UK.

- Ken Derry from the University of Toronto shared resources from a course he developed with colleagues on teaching about method and theory in religion.
- Cathy and Tess Campeau facilitated a workshop on using the online teaching resources from the website at the RDP team meeting in Ottawa in May 2015.

Linking Classrooms

- A "How to" Guide for Organising a Linking Classrooms Seminar was developed for the RDP website as well as document providing reasons why this is a useful learning activity.
- A report and pictures from the joint seminar took place between Nancy Nason-Clark's graduate class in the Sociology Department at the University of New Brunswick and Pamela Dickey Young's undergraduate honours class at Queen's University in November 2013 is on the website.
- A report and pictures of the joint seminar that took place between Sam Reimer's undergraduate students at Crandall University and Cathy Holtmann's undergraduate students at University of Saskatchewan in February 2015 is on the RDP website.

4. Additional Work in Progress

Like many projects, there was so much enthusiasm about certain aspects of this work that our deliverables will extend well beyond the expiration of the monies from the RDP. There will be several additional photo essays (including one that is based on Nancy's book *Men Who Batter* (authored with Barbara Fisher-Townsend; Oxford, New York, 2015) and another that looks at how some religious groups offer lodging and food to co-religionists as they travel across the country). In both of these cases, we are exploring innovative ideas (like student creative design competitions to highlight research work; or the use of stained glass imagery to evoke connection and interest in data) to engage students in the study of religious diversity.

5. Finances

Breakdown of Expenses				
Student Funding				
	Amount	Name	Dates	Project
Student Assistantships				
Graduate student	\$2,246.02	Srijita Sarkar (USask)	Oct. 14 – Dec. 18, 2014	Links to the literature for photo essays, Linking Classrooms with Crandall
Undergraduate student	\$2,057.68	Jennifer Ganong	April 27 – July 31, 2015	Updating religion and violence teaching resources
Research Funding				
	Amount	Project	Dates	Specifics**
Funding for Research Travel	\$486.02	Picturing Diversity – initial phase	Oct. 31 – Nov. 4, 2013	Cathy Holtmann elicits input from RDP team members, research associates and graduate students.
	\$627.78	Workshop for the study of religion in Atlantic Canada	May 20-21, 2014	Cathy Holtmann, Nancy Nason-Clark and Jolyne Roy
Funding for Research Costs	\$1,886.00	Religious Leaders Panels (UNB and SMU) and lunch for workshop on the study of religion in Atlantic Canada	April 10, 2014 and May 20-21, 2014	Video recording and editing; lunch for participants and religious leaders
Funding for	\$1600.00	Photo essays	April 2013-	Denise Rowe,

Administrative/Supply Costs Related to Research			July 2015	Professional fees
	\$1096.50	Religion and Violence Knowledge Translation	June-July 2015	Cranberry Stained Glass