

## Grants awarded 2013-2014

Congratulations to the following team members, whose applications for funding were successful. The *Religion and Diversity Project* is pleased to have funded the following research projects for 2013-2014.

### Innovation Grants

**Pascale Fournier**, University of Ottawa

« **La médiation familiale et le droit religieux au Liban : regards du droit et voix des femmes** »

L'objectif de ce projet fut d'examiner l'impact éventuel de la médiation familiale sur la condition des femmes dans le contexte du droit religieux libanais. Pour y arriver, le projet visait d'abord à mieux comprendre la mise en œuvre du droit religieux chrétien et musulman, en regard notamment des effets patrimoniaux et non patrimoniaux de la dissolution du mariage (les formes de divorce quant au genre, la division des biens, la pension alimentaire, la garde des enfants, etc). Mon hypothèse de travail est que, malgré certains effets pervers, le pouvoir constitutif de la médiation familiale présente des avantages indéniables pour les femmes.

**Christopher Helland**, Dalhousie University

“**Religion in the Media: An International Comparison**”

This cross-national research project examined religious representation in the media at the regional/local, national, and international/transnational level.

The main objectives for the research project were:

1. The development of an internationally comparable data set on religion and the media and to use these data sets for comparative analysis, e.g., key public controversies involving religion and the secular.
2. To develop and implement strategies of knowledge exchange between international researchers examining religion in the public sphere.
3. To disseminate the findings arising from comparative research on the portrayal of religion in the media.

**Pamela Klassen**, University of Toronto

**“Digital Dissemination”**

The goal of this project was to develop the tools and content to disseminate the results of my SSHRC-funded research project in a digital format in order to reach a broader audience than conventional scholarly modes of publication. My book project, “Spiritual Invention of a Nation”, analyzes one aspect of early twentieth-century attempts to negotiate religious diversity in Canada by focusing on missionary-First Nations interactions. I specifically focused on the religiously diverse traditions of storytelling that shaped the colonizing processes that created Canada in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

**Nancy Nason-Clark**, University of New Brunswick

**“Religion and Diversity in the Classroom and Beyond”**

The goals of this project were 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 *Religion and Diversity Project* website.

**Michael Wilkinson**, Trinity Western University and Samuel Reimer, Crandall University.

**“Christian Churches and Immigration: Integration and Identity”**

The purpose of this study was to examine the response of Christian churches to the increasingly diverse immigrant reality in their communities. We studied Catholic and Protestant churches in one large (Vancouver), medium (Halifax) and small (Moncton) metropolitan area in Canada. We have identified and studied at least three congregations (one from each tradition: mainline Protestant, evangelical Protestant, Catholic) that have successful and innovative immigrant services.

## Continuation Grants

**Peter Beyer**, University of Ottawa.

### **“Web-based Survey on Religious Identity (III): Application through Case Studies”**

The main aim of the project was to apply the web-based survey instrument on religious identity which had initially been developed in the context of the two previous projects (2011-2012 & 2012-2013) funded through the *Religion and Diversity Project*. The first stage developed the core questionnaires and pretested them through a small group of volunteers from outside the initial research group. The second refined, tested, and validated the questionnaire through its actual use in a concrete research setting with a select panel of participants who represented a broad cross-section of possible religious identities, and who offered feedback on their experience with the instrument.

**Pamela Dickey Young**, Queen’s University

### **“Religion, Gender and Sexuality among Youth in Canada”**

The Religion, Gender and Sexuality among Youth in Canada project has four primary aims:

1. To explore the constructions and management strategies undertaken by young adults (aged 18-25) concerning their religious and sexual identities, values, and choices;
2. To examine the significant social, cultural, and political factors that inform the abovementioned processes;
3. To study how these young adults manage their religious, sexual, and gender identities;
4. To generate rich qualitative and quantitative data that will contribute new knowledge to academic and policy debates on religion, youth, sexuality, and gender.