

Graduate Student Workshop Series 3, Session 1

February 2-3, 2016

University of Ottawa

List of Participants

| Name                        | Institution                               | Supervisor         |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Alekseevskaia, Maria        | University of Ottawa                      | Phillipe Couton    |
| Alibhai, Zaheeda            | University of Ottawa                      | Lori Beaman        |
| Delic, Zijad                | University of Ottawa                      | Peter Beyer        |
| Hemmat, Samane              | York University – Osgoode Hall Law School | Benjamin Berger    |
| Ludin, Sara                 | University of California - Berkeley       | Winnifred Sullivan |
| Pringnitz, Keelin           | University of Ottawa                      | Lori Beaman        |
| Vanasse-Pelletier, Mathilde | Université de Montréal                    | Solange Lefebvre   |

| Facilitator   | Institution            |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Mary Jo Neitz | University of Missouri |



### *Intellectual Directions and Research Design*

The aims of this first workshop were to get to know one another, to present research topics, and to share ideas on some of the fundamental aspects of doctoral research: theories and concepts, methods and analysis, and context (standpoint, location, ethics etc). Students were asked to prepare a 15 minute presentation for the group, which was to be directed at a non-specialist audience. The presentations were required to include the student's research questions, principal theories and methods.

The workshop was led by Mary Jo Neitz (University of Missouri), sociologist of religion and Professor of Women's Gender Studies. She is an ethnographer who has taught qualitative methodologies at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

In addition to participating in the sessions of the workshop students also ate lunch together, took full advantage of the breaks to get to know each other better, and enjoyed the opportunity for an informal discussion over dinner at the end of the first day.

A questionnaire was circulated in the workshop information package, which asked each student to provide feedback on logistical organization (i.e. communication in preparation to the event) as well as event organization (i.e. agenda, session structure).

Students were asked to provide suggestions for the next workshop, which are synthesized here: more in depth guidance on individual projects; addressing interdisciplinarity in the study of religious diversity; have everyone to circulate a publication that inspires their work, to get a scope of the fields of study the participants and facilitator come from.