



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ

Graduate Student Workshop Series 2, Session 1

November 4-5, 2013

University of Ottawa

List of Participants

Name	Institution	Supervisor
Cummins, Alyshea	University of Ottawa	Peter Beyer
Cusack, Christine	University of Ottawa	Lori Beaman
Fadil, Mohamed	Université de Montréal	Solange Lefebvre
Gareau, Paul	University of Ottawa	Lori Beaman
Gravel, Stéphanie	Université de Montréal	Solange Lefebvre
Palmer, Jordan	University of Ottawa	Natasha Bakht
Riddett, Matthew	University of Victoria	Avigail Eisenberg
Ruiz, Giomny	Université de Montréal	Solange Lefebvre

Facilitator	Institution
Kim Knott	Lancaster University
Teemu Taira	University of Turku



Social Sciences and Humanities  
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sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

## Doctoral Research on Religion and Diversity

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 Kim Knott (Lancaster University, UK) and Teemu Taira (University of Turku, Finland) who collaborated in recent years (with Elizabeth Poole) in a research project on 'Media Portrayals of Religion and the Secular Sacred'. Kim is a Professor of Religious and Secular Studies (<http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/ppr/profiles/kim-knott>), and has been a participant in the *Religion and Diversity Project* since it began. She directed a large programme of research in the UK on 'Diasporas, Migration and Identities' from 2005-11 ([www.diasporas.ac.uk](http://www.diasporas.ac.uk); [www.movingpeoplechangingplaces.org](http://www.movingpeoplechangingplaces.org)). Teemu is a Researcher in Comparative Religion who works on religion in the media, atheism and the category of 'religion' (<http://teemutaira.wordpress.com/>).

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 to meet some other members of the project team who were in Ottawa. They also attended a public lecture by Adam Dinham as part of another workshop on education that was running simultaneously

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: one on one time for each student and facilitator was suggested for more direct feedback individually; a session which includes teaching and course development for future use; the creation of a student feedback form for the facilitator to fill out and return to each student.