



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ

Uncovering Everyday Negotiations: Exploring Best and Worst Practices

PI: Lori Beaman (University of Ottawa)

RA: Caitlin Downie (University of Ottawa)

Non-team member collaboration with Jennifer Selby (Memorial University Newfoundland)

A multi-part research project, 2011-2012 focuses on the following: Stories of negotiation and compromise: here we will target a number of groups for participation in an internet survey which would explore stories of negotiation and compromise in the Canadian context. The groups would include (for the time being) Sikhs, Jews, Muslims, Christians and atheists. We would start small and work from there, with one community from each group, with the hope of perhaps 20 people from each community. The questions we will ask would seek to explore everyday compromise and requests, responses, experiences and so on and to examine how they are framed/understood by the participants. The focus will be on conflict, tension, negotiation and compromise around “time”, i.e. differential perceptions of appropriate times for prayer, rest, work, festival, holiday; “dress”, i.e. choices and strategies for wearing hijab, kirpan, and so on (for atheists this might include reactions to religious clothing and symbols); food, i.e. dietary restrictions, need, requests and so on. A pilot study will help us to refine our questions and to determine just how much the internet survey method will produce. It may be that this study is ultimately best suited to face to face methodologies (in person, one on one interviews and focus groups). This piece of the research will help us to think about how equality is imagined outside of law and (perhaps) achieved in everyday life.

The work plan for 2011-2012 proposed was:

1. 10-20 one on one interviews with Muslim women under project 6
2. Transcription of interviews; coding of interviews
3. 1-2 focus groups on selected topics with Muslim women and or MANAL
4. Review of feasibility of online survey; preparation of survey and pilot with Muslims in Newfoundland
5. preparation of equality bibliography (research goal #1)
6. preparation of annotated table of cases (research goal #3, #4, partial completion)

Ethics, permissions (include any delays): The project experienced delays both in receiving ethics permissions as well as fieldwork delays accessing the community. Interviews conducted this year are being transcribed by the RA; a fieldwork trip by the PI is scheduled for October 2012, which will consist of the final round of interviews, as well as the community focus groups.

Beaman has prepared, with Jennifer Selby (Memorial University NFLD) a SSHRC Insight Grant application to further the research in NFLD. Selby and Beaman were successfully awarded the IG, securing two years of funding to continue interviews and research on the Newfoundland component examining everyday negotiations.

Research Assistantship:

Research work: Caitlin Downie has been hired to transcribe interviews stemming from the Newfoundland component of this project. Ms. Downie conducts research in Newfoundland for her MA work, so is able to maximize her involvement in this research project to benefit her fieldwork and the data collection for the project itself.

Breakdown of Expenses				
Student Funding*				
	Amount	Name	Dates	Project
Student Stipends				
Student Assistantship	327.00	Caitlin Downie	April 2012	Interview transcription
Research Funding				
	Amount	Project	Dates	Specifics**
Funding for Research Costs				
Funding for Research Travel				
Funding for Administrative/Supply Costs Related to Research				
*(Please see Assistantship/Student Funding Guidelines above)				
**If items were purchased, indicate item, relationship to project and cost				
***All research are required to submit research reports related to their student/research funding.				

Submit this information to Heather Shipley (hshipley@uottawa.ca) as a word document attachment, using this page as a template.