

**RELIGION AND SOCIETY:  
A POLICY-RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM ON IMMIGRATION, MULTICULTURALISM,  
AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN CANADA**

**Wednesday, February 2, 2011, Wosk Centre for Dialogue**

9:00am -9:30am Welcome remarks and coffee

Meharoonah Ghani, Director, Multicultural Advisory Council Secretariat, Ministry of Regional Economic and Skills Development and Paul Bramadat, Director, Centre for Studies and Religion and Society

9:30am - 11:30am

**PANEL 1: SPACE, PLACE AND THE SACRED: MANAGING RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**Chair: Paul Bramadat**

**Heidi Hoerning**, *Office of Research Services, McGill University*

**Justin Tse**, *Department of Geography, University of British Columbia*

**Sandeep Agrawal**, *School of Urban and Regional Planning, Ryerson University*

11:30am - 12:30pm – Lunch

12:30pm - 2:30pm

**PANEL 2: POLICY TO PROJECT – “ON THE GROUND” CASE STUDIES**

**Chair: Julie Drolet**

**Clare Whelan-Sadique**, *Embrace BC, Ministry of Regional Economic and Skills Development*

**Amandeep Sangha**, *Manager, Multiculturalism and Community Outreach, CIC BC/Yukon*

**Julie Papaioannou**, *Program Officer, Multiculturalism, CIC BC/Yukon*

**Tahzeem Kassam**, *Director of Community Development DIVERSECity, Surrey BC.*

**Bruce Curtis**, *Community Justice Centre, Comox Valley*

2:30pm – 3pm - Refreshment Break

3:00pm - 4:00pm

**PANEL 3: OPEN DISCUSSION: POST-SECULARISM**

**Paul Bramadat**, *Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, University of Victoria*

**Julie Drolet**, *School of Social Work, Thompson Rivers University*

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### PANEL 1

**Dr. Sandeep Agrawal** is a professor of urban planning and management, Ryerson University, Canada. He is the director of the Master's program in the School of Urban and Regional Planning. He studies the transformative impact of immigration, ethnicity and religion on our urban landscapes and its effects on urban planning practice and policies. He is currently the Domain Leader of the Welcoming Communities domain at the Ontario Metropolis-CERIS in Toronto.

**Justin Tse** is a second-year Ph.D. Candidate in Human Geography at the UBC. His interest in Chinese Christians, religious landscapes, and cultural geographies grows out of his personal experience of growing up in Chinese Christian communities in the San Francisco Bay Area when he was a child and an adolescent and then moving to Metro Vancouver in his late teens to begin studies at UBC. Undergraduate studies in History Honours programme at UBC taught him the value of historiographical writing as memory, a skill he transferred to his graduate studies in Geography at UBC. In addition to his current doctoral work, he continues to serve churches and various NGOs in an advisory capacity and is committed to using his research for the purpose of peacemaking.

**Heidi Hoernig** has a PhD, Planning from the University of Waterloo. She also held a SSHRC post-doctoral fellowship at the *Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, Centre Urbanisation Culture Société* in Montreal. She has conducted research in urban planning and social geography in relation to minority places of worship, downtown revitalization in mid-size cities, policy monitoring and evaluation and community responses to hazards. Previously, she worked in First Nations communities in northern Alberta in youth and criminal justice services. She currently works at McGill University in Research Services for the Faculty of Arts.

### PANEL 2

**Clare Whelan-Sadiké** is the Anti-Racism Program Advisor in the Immigrant Integration and Multiculturalism Branch of the BC Provincial Government. Working closely with both colleagues across government and the community, she manages the Provincial Government's EmbraceBC program to address racism, promote multiculturalism and build inclusive communities. Clare holds a Masters in Adult Education with a focus on social change and anti-racism, and prior to government worked on community-development projects in South Africa, Botswana and Mozambique to promote the ideals of anti-oppression, anti-racism and the development of cross-cultural understanding and relations.

**Julie Papaioannou** is a Multiculturalism Program Officer with Citizenship and Immigration Canada's Multiculturalism Program. She has been with the Program for over 4 years, in which time she has worked with community stakeholders and organizations in the delivery of the Multiculturalism Program. Prior to joining government, Julie worked in the non-profit sector in Edmonton, Alberta in the area of human rights, and has a Master of Arts degree in Political Science.

**Tahzeem Kassam**, Director of Community Development at DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society, has over 12 years of experience with immigrant and refugee settlement services in the city of Surrey. She started as a part time volunteer coordinator, growing the program into a small department of innovative programs that met the specific needs of newcomers. Tahzeem is passionate about helping newcomers to have access to programs and services as well as to help them integrate successfully into their new community. She has, and continues to, advocate for better access and integration strategies to fulfill this vision.

**Bruce Curtis** is the Chief Administrator of the Community Justice Centre, providing conflict resolution services through restorative justice responses and community dialogues on racism, homophobia and hate activity. Previously he served for 25 years as chief staff officer for national and local unions and, with his partner, operated a summer resort for social activists. He also serves as a marriage commissioner, civil celebrant, and non-profit board consultant. He completed a B.Sc., Teaching Certification, and an M.A. from UBC, along with certification as a mediator and the Certificate in Dialogue and Civic Engagement from SFU. He and his partner have three magnificent adult children who have turned out not too badly.

### PANEL 3

**Paul Bramadat** is the Director of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society and associate professor in the Religious Studies program at the University of Victoria. He has been actively involved with the Metropolis Project since 1999 and his research and teaching interests include religion, radicalization, identity, ethnicity, multiculturalism and public policy in contemporary Canada. His most recent co-edited book is *International Migration and the Governance of Religious Diversity* (McGill-Queens University Press, 2009).

**Dr. Julie Drolet** is Assistant Professor in the department of social work and Director of the new Centre for International Social Work and Research at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC. She is actively involved with Metropolis BC as a domain leader in Settlement, Integration and Welcoming Communities and a member of the WICWP regional committee in the Interior of BC.