



Dr. Paul Bowlby – Department of Religious Studies

Dr. Paul Bowlby	General & Research Interests	
Faculty & Position		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor 		
Education		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor of Philosophy in the Religious Sciences, <i>McMaster University</i> • Master of Arts in Religious Studies, <i>McMaster University</i> • Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in History and Religious Studies 		
Biography		
<p><i>Dr. Bowlby grew up in Hamilton Ontario and has three children. He came to Saint Mary's University in 1975. He is married to Dr. Anne Marie Dalton also in the Department of Religious Studies. His graduate studies focused on the religious traditions of India. More recently he was an exchange professor at Hokkaido University of Education, Hakodate, Japan and worked on the Tier One CIDA project, Community Based Conservation Management, in China and Viet Nam. After holding several executive positions in the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion/Société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion, he was elected President from 1998-2000.</i></p>	<p>Dr. Bowlby's current research is on the new religious diversity in Canada. Statistics Canada data show that the fastest growing religious traditions in Canada include Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and the Christian Orthodox churches, to mention only a few. In addition to a broad interest in the socio-political and cultural aspects of the new religious diversity, Dr. Bowlby has, together with Dr. Nancie Erhard, received a grant from Canadian Heritage Multiculturalism Canada to study the new religious diversity in Halifax Regional Municipality. The grant will permit the development of historical profiles of the religious institutions founded in Halifax after 1960; develop resources for social studies and world religions courses in Nova Scotia schools and look in particular at the ways in which religious communities support new immigrants as they settle—and hopefully stay –in Nova Scotia.</p> <p>I think the most important change in my career has been to relate my teaching and research in comparative religion to the local community. In my introductory course I now take my students to visit a</p>	<p>Muslim mosque, the Hindu Temple, the Sikh Gurdwara and the Shambhala Centre to mention only a few. We are always made to feel so welcome and the students are given the opportunity to learn directly about the religious practices. With the funding of the Heritage/Multiculturalism research project it is an exciting prospect to have the opportunity to build more bridges between religious communities, Saint Mary's and Halifax society-at-large.</p> <p>Dr. Bowlby has been chair of the Religious Studies department for over 20 years and has worked extensively to build both the department and his field of study. His book <i>Religious Studies in Atlantic Canada: A State-of-the-Art Review</i> published in 2001 was one of five volumes, published by the Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion, which surveyed the field nationally in Canada. With the affiliation of the Atlantic School of Theology with Saint Mary's University in 2002 it is possible to look forward to the prospect of graduate level teaching and research on religions in the Atlantic region, in Canada, and internationally.</p>



Dr. Paul Bowlby with Nancy Erhard • www.smu.ca/academic/science/chemist/singer.htm

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