

**Comparing Public Commissions on Cultural and Religious Diversity:
Receptions and Challenges of Implementing
Their Public-Policy Recommendations
29-31 May 2014
International Conference Programme
KAICIID, Schottenring 21, 1010 Wien Austria**

28 May

All day Arrivals
19.00 Welcome Dinner

29 May

09.00 Public Debates and Dialogue, Patrice Brodeur, Director of Research, KAICIID
09.30 Comparing Public Commissions. Solange Lefebvre, Université de Montréal
09.45 *Norway:*
Ingunn Folkestad Breistein, Institute of Religion, University of Agder
Inger Furseth, University of Oslo
10.45 Break
11.15 General discussion
11.45 *Spain:*
Rita Gomez, Observatorio del pluralismo religioso en España
12.15 General Discussion
13.00 Lunch
Quebec, Belgium, Britain, France (comparative perspectives) :
14.30 Solange Lefebvre (with Karel Jorge Leyva Rodríguez, Giomny Ruiz Fernandez,
Mathilde Vanasse-Pelletier)
15.00 Lori Beaman (with Marie-Claude L'Archer), co-investigator
15.30 Peter Beyer (with Marie-Ève Larivière), co-investigator
15.00 General discussion
16.30 Break
17.00 *Belgium:*
Marie-Claire Foblets, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology
17.30 Louis-Léon Christians, Université Catholique de Louvain
18.00 General discussion
19.00 Dinner (Voucher Programme)

30 May

- 9.00 *France:*
Anne Fornerod, Université de Strasbourg
- 9.30 Pierre-Henri Prélot, Université Cergy-Pontoise
- 10.00 General discussion
- 10.30 Break
- 11.00 *Britain:*
Robin Richardson, former director of the Runnymede Foundation, sponsor of the Parekh commission
- 11.30 Sarah Neal, University of Surrey
- 12.00 Varun Uberoi, Brunel University
- 12.30 General discussion
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.30 *Australia and New Zealand:*
Gary Bouma, Monash University
- 15.00 Douglas Pratt, University of Waikato
- 15.30 General discussion
- 16.00 Break
- 16.30 Free time
- 19.00 Dinner (Voucher Programme)

31 May

- 9.00 *Other countries and experiences*
LAI, Ah Eng (Dr), National University of Singapore
Rev. Dr. Hermen Shastri, General Secretary - The Council of Churches of Malaysia
Bishnu Mohapatra, Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India
- 10.30 Break
- 11.00 General Discussion
- 11.30 Synthesis and follow-up
- 12.00 End of conference
- 19.00 Closing dinner

The Vienna conference is meant to study in more details the aspect of the reception of various commissions on diversity, with scholars, community leaders and policy makers. The emphasis is to study how to improve media strategies and particularly how to communicate the outcomes of these commissions so as to improve their impact, mostly nationally but with an eye on the processes of cross-fertilization transnationally. It will involve various countries (not only North-Atlantic), through scholars whose research focuses on one or the comparison of these commissions, as well as actual and potential policy makers interested in their implementation. The basic themes are:

- Receptions of commission reports on cultural and religious diversity;
- Promotion of and/or resistance to recommendations by national political parties;
- Challenges and experiences in formulating recommendations for better implementation by policy makers;
- Challenges and success stories of media coverage of commission results and recommendations;
- Role of policy makers in shaping socio-political responses to religious diversity;
- Communication processes and strategies in developing final reports and recommendations;
- Challenges of implementing public policy recommendations, etc.

This conference is based on a collaboration between:

1) An international project directed by Dr Solange Lefebvre in Montreal (Religious and Cultural Diversity in Four National Contexts: Comparative Study of the Dynamics of Identity and the Regulation of Religion - 2012-2017), and funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council¹;

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2) A project of the KAICIID Research Department directed by Patrice Brodeur that aims to promote dialogue between various religious and secular points of view on the socio-political challenges of managing ideological and religious diversity in various nation-states.

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¹ Based on a project funded by the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council:

Religious and Cultural Diversity in Four National Contexts: Comparative Study of the Dynamics of Identity and the Regulation of Religion (2012-2017).

Principal Investigator: Dr Solange Lefebvre, Faculty of theology and religious study, University of Montreal

Canadian Co-investigators: Jean-François Gaudreault-Desbiens (Law, University of Montreal), Lori Beaman and Peter Beyer (sociology and religious studies, University of Ottawa)

International Collaborators: Marie-Claire Foblets (Anthropology and Law, Belgium), Céline Béraud

(sociology, France), Tarik Modood and Varun Uberoi (political sciences, Britain), James Beckford

(Sociology, Britain)