

‘Multicultural values’? Equality, diversity and inclusion

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Abstract

After the enactment of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (which explicitly mentions multiculturalism in s.27) the courts began to talk about ‘Charter values’ even in cases that did not specifically deal with the Charter. It was in this way that a new ethical framework began to infiltrate the Canadian legal (and possibly social) imaginary. This presentation will consider an analogous possibility: that despite a shift away from the explicit language of multiculturalism, in the Canadian context at least, there is an expansion of multiculturalism as ‘multicultural values’ which shapes social relations and informs the ways that some Canadians see themselves, the conduct of good citizens, and the national imaginary. These values are articulated as equality (or equity), diversity and inclusion and they have at least partially rescued multiculturalism from some of its alleged failings. The presentation will draw on data from the project “A Transcultural Approach to Belonging and Engagement among Migrant Youth” to offer an empirical lens through which to explore these possibilities. The project’s stated aim was to ‘unpack the complex manifestations of social belonging and cultural identity formations amongst migrant youth in super-diverse cities by going beyond the much-invoked notion of competing, even clashing, cultural identities.’

Biography

Lori G. Beaman is the Canada Research Chair in Religious Diversity and Social Change, Professor in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa, and Director of the ‘Nonreligion in a Complex Future’ project (nonreligionproject.ca). She previously directed the ‘Religion and Diversity Project’ (religionanddiversity.ca). Her publications include *The Transition of Religion to Culture in Law and Public Discourse* (Routledge, 2020), *Deep Equality in an Era of Religious Diversity* (Oxford University Press, 2017, Italian translation *Eguaglianza*

profunda in un'era di diversità religiosa, Ariele, 2018), and “Living Well Together in a (non)Religious Future: Contributions from the Sociology of Religion,” in *Sociology of Religion* (2017). Beaman received the 2017 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Impact Award (Insight Category), and holds an honorary doctorate from Uppsala University. Her current and engaged areas of research include nonreligion, human/non-human relationships, equality, law, and religious diversity.