

The Study of Religion in British Columbia: A State-of-the-Art Review

Brian J. Fraser



Study Of Religion In British Columbia A Stateoftheart Review

Michele Murray



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The Study of Religion in British Columbia Brian J. Fraser, 2006-01-01 The Study of Religion in British Columbia is a story of enterprise innovation and isolation In this unique survey Brian J Fraser examines the history and development of the institutions of higher education where religion is taught and describes the methods used to understand the religious dimension of human endeavour in Canada s westernmost province Fraser analyzes the sources development and persistence of two distinct approaches to the study of religion in British Columbia theological studies and religious studies He traces the early strength and recent expansion of theological studies especially among conservative evangelical Christians and sets the creation of British Columbia s only department of religious studies at the University of British Columbia in this context He also describes the innovative curricula designed by several of the institutions for the study of religion in the province Finally he contends that the differing views on the nature of religion held by these institutions and their constituencies have led to a continuing isolation from each other The Study of Religion in British Columbia is the latest volume in the Canadian Corporation for the Study of Religion s series on the study of religion in Canada Readers interested in the rich diversity of personalities and perspectives that have shaped religious studies in British Columbia will find here a concise description of its evolution and a thought provoking examination of its significance [The Routledge Companion to the Study of Religion](#)

John R. Hinnells, 2005 The Routledge Companion to the Study of Religion contains everything a student needs for a full understanding of theory and methods in religious studies It begins by explaining the most important methodological approaches to religion including psychology philosophy anthropology and comparative study before moving on to explore a wide variety of critical issues Written entirely by renowned international specialists and using clear and accessible language throughout it is the perfect guide to the problems and questions found in courses and exams [The Routledge Companion to the Study of Religion](#) John Hinnells, 2009-09-10 The Routledge Companion to the Study of Religion is a major resource for courses in Religious Studies It begins by explaining the most important methodological approaches to religion including psychology philosophy anthropology and comparative study before moving on to explore a wide variety of critical issues such as gender science fundamentalism ritual and new religious movements Written by renowned international specialists this new edition includes eight new chapters including post structuralism religion and economics religion and the environment religion and popular culture and sacred space surveys the history of religious studies and the key disciplinary approaches explains why the study of religion is relevant in today s world highlights contemporary issues such as globalization diaspora and politics includes annotated reading lists a glossary and summaries of key points to assist student learning *Playing a Jewish Game* Michele Murray, 2006-01-01 Is it possible that early Christian anti Judaism was directed toward people other than Jews Michele Murray proposes that significant strands of early Christian anti Judaism were directed against Gentile Christians More specifically it was directed toward Gentile Christian judaizers These were Christians who combined a

commitment to Christianity with adherence in varying degrees to Jewish practices without viewing such behaviour as contradictory Several Christian leaders thought that these community members dangerously blurred the boundaries between Christianity and Judaism As such Gentile Christian judaizers became the target of much anti Jewish rhetoric in various early Christian writings Evidence of Gentile Christian judaizers can be found in canonical sources such as Paul's Letter to the Galatians and the Book of Revelation as well as non canonical sources such as the Epistle of Barnabas the Didache and Justin Martyr's Dialogue with Trypho In order to compare the phenomenon of judaizing and the reaction to it of ecclesiastical authorities Murray organizes the evidence by probable geographical location using Asia Minor and Syria as the two main loci The phenomenon of Gentile Christian judaizing is examined within the broader context of Jewish Christian relations in the early centuries and is the first attempt to draw all possible references to Gentile Christian judaizers together into one study to consider them as a whole This discussion invites readers to reflect on the existence of Gentile Christian judaizers as another point on the continuum of Jewish Christian relations in the Greco Roman world an area Murray concludes that needs to be more carefully defined

Religious Rivalries and the Struggle for Success in Caesarea Maritima Terence L. Donaldson, 2000-05-11 We know how the story of the Roman Empire ended with the triumph of Christianity and the eventual Christianization of the Roman Mediterranean But how would religious life have appeared to an observer at a time when the conversion of the emperor was only a Christian pipe dream And how would it have appeared in one particular city rather than in the Roman Empire as a whole This volume takes a detailed look at the religious dimension of life in one particular Roman city Caesarea Maritima on the Mediterranean coast of Judea Caesarea was marked by a complex religious identity from the outset Over time other religious groups including Christianity Mithraism and Samaritanism found a home in the city where they jostled with each other and with those already present for position influence and the means of survival Written by a team of seasoned scholars and promising newcomers this book brings a new perspective to the study of religion in antiquity Along with the deliberate goal to understand religion as an urban phenomenon Religious Rivalries and the Struggle for Success in Caesarea Maritima studies religious groups as part of the dynamic process of social interaction spanning a spectrum from coexistence through competition and rivalry to open conflict The cumulative result is a fresh and fascinating look at one of antiquity's most interesting cities

"His Dominion" and the "Yellow Peril" Jiwu Wang, 2010-02-25 A history of Chinese immigrants encounter with Canadian Protestant missionaries His Dominion and the Yellow Peril Protestant Missions to Chinese Immigrants in Canada 1859-1967 analyzes the evangelizing activities of missionaries and the role of religion in helping Chinese immigrants affirm their ethnic identity in a climate of cultural conflict Jiwu Wang argues that by working toward a vision of Canada that espoused Anglo Saxon Protestant values missionaries inevitably reinforced popular cultural stereotypes about the Chinese and widened the gap between Chinese and Canadian communities Those immigrants who did embrace the Christian faith felt isolated from their community and their old way of life but they were still not

accepted by mainstream society Although the missionaries goal was to assimilate the Chinese into Anglo Saxon Protestant culture it was Chinese religion and cultural values that helped the immigrants maintain their identity and served to protect them from the intrusion of the Protestant missions Wang documents the methods used by the missionaries and the responses from the Chinese community noting the shift in approach that took place in the 1920s when the clergy began to preach respect for Chinese ways and sought to welcome them into Protestant Canadian life Although in the early days of the missions Chinese Canadians rejected the evangelizing to take what education they could from the missionaries as time went on and prejudice lessened they embraced the Christian faith as a way to gain acceptance as Canadians The Call of Conscience Geoffrey Adams,2006-01-01 Initially when the government in Paris responded with force to the November 1 1954 insurrection of Algerian nationalists French public opinion offered all but unanimous support Then it was revealed that hundreds of thousands of Muslims were herded into resettlement camps in Algeria that Algerians suspected of nationalist sympathies were imprisoned in France that conscientious objectors were denied their rights and that a resolution to the conflict either by force or by peaceful methods was not forthcoming When it was proven that the army was guilty of abuses members of the Protestant minority protested and then laboured to educate their own communities as well as the public at large to the moral and spiritual perils of these actions Based on painstaking research and solid scholarship The Call of Conscience French Protestant Responses to the Algeria War 1954 1962 reveals a rich portrait of the protest *Linking Sexuality and Gender* Tracy J. Trothen,2006-01-01 Why did it take so long for the United Church of Canada to respond to violence against women Tracy J Trothen looks at the United Church as a uniquely Canadian institution and explores how it has approached gender and sexuality issues She argues that how the Church deals with these issues influences its ability to name violence against women In examining the Church s early approaches to gender and sexuality Tracy J Trothen discovered that the United Church had tended to see certain structures or roles as sacred and others as demonic For example while sex outside marriage was bad or improper sexual expression within marriage was largely deemed as proper or good no matter what manifestation it took This assumption allowed much violence within families and marriages to go unchallenged Trothen uncovers significant shifts in this approach through the examination of such issues as redemptive homes marriage pornography abortion the ordination of women and family Then analyzing three recent case studies she demonstrates the value of women s voices in challenging dominant world views Finally she suggests how the Church s approach to human sexuality and gender has facilitated or obstructed the move to address violence against women The findings in *Linking Sexuality and Gender* can be applied to faiths outside the United Church and will be important to anyone interested in church and society sexuality gender or the causal dynamics behind one Canadian institution s response to violence against women Tracy J Trothen is an assistant professor of systematic theology and ethics and director of field education at Queen s Theological College Queen s University Canada She was ordained in the United Church of Canada Why

did it take so long for the United Church of Canada to respond to violence against women Mishnah and the Social Formation of the Early Rabbinic Guild Jack N. Lightstone, 2006-01-01 Where do the origins of the rabbinic movement lie and how might evidence from the early rabbinic literature be made to reveal those origins In order to shed light on the early social formation of the rabbinic guild of masters Lightstone brings the theoretical and methodological insights of socio rhetorical analysis to examine Mishnah the first document authored by the early rabbinic movement and its principal object of study for several centuries He argues that the enshrinement of Mishnah served to model via its pervasive rhetoric the principal authoritative guild expertise that qualified and marked one as a member of the rabbinic guild Furthermore he establishes the social and historical venue in late second and early third century Galilee The author concludes that the social formation of the early rabbinic guild coalesced around the institution of the Jewish Patriarchy for which the early rabbis served as bureaucratic scribal retainers He further suggests that the development of both the Patriarchy in the Land of Israel and the social formation of the rabbinic guild may have been spurred by the imposition of Roman style urbanization in the region over the course of the latter half of the second and beginning of the third century Lightstone s approach is informed by the insights and methods of several cognate disciplines encompassing literary analysis sociology and anthropology and history including in the last chapter the history of material culture The book will be of interest to advanced students in the history of Judaism rabbinic literature biblical studies early Christianity and the history of religion and culture in the late Roman Near East *Faith and Fiction* Barbara Pell, 2006-01-01 Is it possible to write an artistically respectable and theoretically convincing religious novel in a non religious age Up to now there has been no substantial application of theological criticism to the works of Hugh MacLennan and Morley Callaghan the two most important Canadian novelists before 1960 Yet both were religious writers during the period when Canada entered the modern non religious era and both greatly influenced the development of our literature MacLennan s journey from Calvinism to Christian existentialism is documented in his essays and seven novels most fully in *The Watch that Ends the Night* Callaghan s fourteen novels are marked by tensions in his theology of Catholic humanism with his later novels defining his theological themes in increasingly secular terms This tension between narrative and metanarrative has produced both the artistic strengths and the moral ambiguities that characterize his work *Faith and Fiction* A Theological Critique of the Narrative Strategies of Hugh MacLennan and Morley Callaghan is a significant contribution to the relatively new field studying the relation between religion and literature in Canada

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