

## **Call for Papers: Religious Studies in Atlantic Canada (RESAC) Conference**

**Hosted by the Department for the Study of Religion, Saint Mary's University  
March 28-29, 2025**

The Department for the Study of Religion at Saint Mary's University invites scholars and students to the **Religious Studies in Atlantic Canada (RESAC)** conference. This conference builds on previous gatherings by Saint Mary's University and the University of New Brunswick. Both institutions intend to establish RESAC as an annual event, alternating between these two campuses.

The 2025 conference at Saint Mary's University provides a collegial environment for presenting research, sharing insights, and engaging in meaningful discussions. The event aims to strengthen inter-institutional connections within the Atlantic region and explore diverse approaches to the study of religion within the humanities and social sciences.

### **Tentative Schedule:**

- **Friday, March 28, 2025; 6:00-10:00 pm**  
Film Screening: *The Queen of My Dreams*, Baby Daal Productions (2023)  
A catered light dinner will precede the screening of this acclaimed film, followed by a virtual Q&A session with director Fawzia Mirza and co-producer Andria Wilson Mirza.
- **Saturday, March 29, 8:00 am–5:00 pm**  
Main Conference: Panel sessions and discussions, with continental breakfast, snacks, and lunch provided. An optional social dinner gathering will follow in the evening.

### **Call for Submissions:**

We invite papers, panel proposals, and student research presentations that explore the following themes:

- **Pedagogical Innovations and the Future of Religious Studies**
  - New teaching methods, curriculum designs, and digital strategies.
  - The evolving role of Religious Studies in higher education and its relevance to societal challenges.
  - Student-led research challenging traditional approaches.
- **Religion, Society, and Culture**
  - Religion's intersections with media, film, arts, literature, and sports.
  - Religion's influence on cultural norms, values, and public life.
  - The impact of migration on religious identities and practices.
  - This history of religion.
- **Religious Texts, Traditions, and Theology**

- Innovative readings and interpretations of religious texts.
- Comparative analyses of religious traditions, particularly in Atlantic Canada.
- Contemporary issues in theology, including bioethics, environmental ethics, and social justice.
- **Interdisciplinary and Intersectional Approaches**
  - Religion's intersections with ethnicity, race, gender, sexuality, and ethics.
  - Integrating religious studies with sociology, anthropology, history, political science, and environmental studies.

We also welcome submissions broadly related to the study of religion beyond these themes. Presentations should be 15 minutes long, including time for Q&A and discussion.

**Submission Guidelines:**

If you are interested in participating or having your students attend, please email [religion@smu.ca](mailto:religion@smu.ca) by **December 13, 2024**. Abstracts (approximately 100 words) for papers and panel discussions should be submitted by **January 13, 2025**. Please include your name, institutional affiliation (if applicable), and contact information.

**Travel and Accommodation:**

Accommodation will be provided for participants on March 28 at the Lord Nelson Hotel. Travel stipends are available for student participants, and general participants can also indicate their need for travel support in their submission.

**Conference Conveners:**

- Dr. Mary Hale
- Dr. Lindsay Macumber
- Dr. James Kwateng-Yeboah

For inquiries, contact: [religion@smu.ca](mailto:religion@smu.ca). We look forward to welcoming you to Saint Mary's next March for some good conversations and relaxed collegiality.