Susan J. Palmer
CURRICULUM VITAE 2017

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Affiliate Professor and Part-time Instructor
Religion Department
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Religious Studies, Concordia University 1992
M.A. Religion and Comparative Ethics, Concordia University 1976
B.A. Honours English, McGill University 1968

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professor, Department of History and Religious Studies, Dawson College 1974-2013
Part-time Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies, Concordia University, 1992-2014
Adjunct Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Concordia University, 1996-2006
Research Associate, Concordia University, 2008-2010.
Affiliate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Concordia University, 2011-2013, 2014-2016.
BOOKS


BOOK CHAPTERS


Other Publications

JOURNAL ARTICLES


“Cult Fighting in Middle Georgia” in Religion in the News, edited by Mark Silk, Trinity College, Massachusetts), Summer 2006.


"Unrael!: A UFO religion discovers that the media plays ball", Religion in the News, Spring 2003.


"Woman as Playmate in the Raelian Movement" (1992) SYGYGY, (Vol.2).


"Community and Commitment in the Rajneesh Foundation" (September, 1986) Update. Aaarhus, Denmark

"Purity and Danger in the Rajneesh Foundation" (August, 1986) Update. Aaarhus, Denmark, ."


RESEARCH AWARDS AND GRANTS

Social Sciences and the Humanities Research Council of Canada
2016-2019 – Co-researcher on SSHRC/CRSH project (Fonds d’innovation sociale communautés et collèges) Les intégrismes religieux au Canada : vulgarisation et éducation populaire. (Main Researcher: Martin Geoffroy, Cégep Édouard-Montpetit, Montreal, QC.)

2010-2016 – Team member on the “Major Collaborative Research Initiatives” grant, awarded by the Social Sciences and the Humanities of Canada’s Team member on “The Religion and Diversity Project/Religion et diversité” (a seven-year project, hosted at the University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario). This project brings together 36 team members from 24 universities, directed by Professor Lori G. Beaman, University of Ottawa, as the Project Director. (See www.religionanddiversity.ca)


2000-2003: “Quebec’s Apocalyptic Movements in Political Perspective” (Standard Research Grant).

1994: “Millennialism and Sexuality” (recommended but not supported – NSF) Standard Research Grant.


Other Research Awards

Three PSCC grants for travel to a conference, for SSHRC recipients, awarded by Fonds de Recherche du Québec (société et culture).


Shastri Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1994 (Shastri Indio-Canadian Institute for Travel in India): “The Post-Charismatic Phase of the Rajneesh Movement”.

Finalist in 1993 competition for Prix d'Excellence de l'Academie des Grands Montrealais.

Canada Council Explorations Grant, 1987, for book project: “AIDS and the Apocalyptic Vision in Cult, Church and Sect”.
Work with Law Enforcement and International Courts

2014 – Testified as an expert witness on behalf of the Twelve Tribes at the Family Court in Ansbach, Bavaria, Germany on September 20, 2014. The case was a custody dispute after the Jugendamt instigated a raid in September 2013 on the Klosterzimmern community, and 40 children were seized and placed in temporary state custody.

2001 – Testified at the Teamsters versus UPS trial of Leslie Huggins (a Rastafarian working in UPS’ packing and shipping office who applied for a promotion, and was denied because he refused to cut off his dreadlocks) and assisted his lawyer, Me PierreAndré Blanchard, Procureur de l’Union des employés du transport local et industries diverses in preparing documents for a case.

1999 - Invited speaker at the FBI (United States' Federal Bureau of Investigation) at the October 20-21, 1999 workshop on the “Project Megiddo” under Director Louis Freeh at the FBI headquarters in Quantico, VA as part of CESNUR’s team of 12 international scholars.


1998 – Testified in the trial of Stephen Wooten in Woodstock of the Twelve Tribes, who was accused of abducting his sons, in Woodstock, Vermont in December 1998.


1986 – Testified in the June 12, 1986 trial of Edward Dawson, member of the Twelve Tribes, in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, who was accused of kidnapping his son and of contempt of court.

Reprinted Articles and Chapters


"All That Glitters: Charisma and Entrepreneurialism in the Spiritual Schools of E.J. Gold" (1993) SYZYGY (Vol.5).


**Invited Speaker/Visiting Lecturer**


2016 – Invited Speaker at Karoli University, Prague for the class of Professor Zdenek Vojtišek and at a press conference on the Twelve Tribes, May 16-17, 2016.

2012 – Invited Speaker at the conference, *Barn und Sekts* (Children and New Religions), October 8-14 2012, held at Dalarna University College, Falun, Sweden, organized by Professor Liselotte Frisk, History of Religions, Dalarna University.


2012 – Invited chair of session and participant with MCRI team at “New Forms of Public Religion”, AHRC/ESRC Religion and Society Programme, 5-7- September, at the Divinity School, St. John’s College, Cambridge, U.K. (Could not attend due to conflict with first weeks of classes at Concordia)

2012 – Invited by Professor Liselotte Frisk to give a lecture, “Children in New Religions: Captive, Coddled, Abused or Free?” as a visiting scholar for the conference, *Children in New Religions*, October 8-14 to be held at Dalarna University College, Falun, 2011-Stockholm.

2011 - Invited by Professor Pete Äckerback and Professor Liselote Frisk to give a series of lectures on New Religious Movements in Sweden, between May 18 and 28, 2011, at the University of Stockholm; and at Dalarna University College at Falun, Sweden.

2009 – Invited lecturer at Carleton University, Ottawa, for Professor Lori Beaman’s class, 23 November 2009.

2008 – Invited Speaker at the Colloque International de l’AFEC : *Le Québec, « laboratoire » culturel et politique: Quel renouvellement depuis la Révolution tranquille?* Held at the Université Michel de Montaigne Bordeaux 3, 18- 21 June 2008, organized by Professor Bernadette Rigal Cellard,with the Master Religions et Sociétés and CLIMAS.

2006 – Invited participant in workshop on *Political and Religious Extremism* at Assumption University, University of Windsor, May 28-30, 2006, invited by Professor Martha Lee., University of Windsor, November 14, 2008, organized by Professor Martha Lee, the Stephen Jarislowsky Chair in Religion and Conflict).

1997 – Visiting Lecturer to speak on “New Religious Movements and Globalization” at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, and the Universities of Stockholm and Ume in Sweden, in May 1997, invited by Professor Mikhail Rothstein and Professor Liselotte Frisk.


**Research Methods Workshops**

*I was invited to offer lectures and conduct workshops on Methods in Qualitative Research at the following universities:*


2008 – University of Windsor. Invited by Professor Martha Lee to conduct a workshop on “Researching New Religious Movements: Qualitative Methods in Practice” at the University of Windsor, November 14, 2008.


2006 - University of Lausanne (*UNIL*) in Switzerland. Invited by Professor Jorg Stolz to offer a workshop on "Méthodes qualitatives en sociologie et sciences des religions" for *l'Observatoire des religions en Suisse* (ORS), la Société suisse de sociologie (SSS) et de la Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft (SGR), in 7-9 December, 2006.

**Professional Association Offices**
2009-2013 - General and Acquisitions Editor with New York University Press, for the *New and Alternative Religions* Series, with Timothy Miller and Jennifer Hammer.

2010-2013 - Member of the Editorial Board of the *International Journal for the Study of New Religions*, Equinox Publishing (Sweden).

2004-2008 - International Member of the Editorial Board for the *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, (King’s College, University of London), U.K.


**Recent Conference Activities**

Conference: *Les Nouvelles Religions au Québec: Spiritualités Alternatives après Vatican II et la Révolution tranquille*
Religion and Diversity Project (www.religionanddiversity.ca)

**Organizers:** Susan J. Palmer and Solange Lefebvre, Chair of Religion and Culture, University of Montreal, on Friday, April 25, 2014, at the Birks Building, the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University.

Presented paper: “The German raid on the Twelve Tribes and its Aftermath” at CESNUR Conference, held at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, June 4-6, 2014.


Co-chair and presenter at the session “New Religious Movements, Secularism and the State” with Martin Geoffroy (*Université de Moncton*) at ISA: World Congress on Religion in Gothenburg, Sweden in July 2010.


Participant at the International Workshop, “Cultural Dialogues, Religion and Communication” at the University of Ottawa on October 22, 2009, organized by Isaac Nahon-Serfaty, Assistant Professor at the Department of Communication, University of Ottawa.


Book Reviews


Media Interviews, Articles and Documentary Films

1995-96 Associate Producer, Writer and Researcher for *The Love Prophet*, a television documentary on the Children of God/The Family, directed by Abbey Neidik, produced by DLI Productions in Montreal, funded by Telefilm.


Interviewed by Danial Richler on *Big Life*, 1996.


Articles in Academic Journals


“Cult Fighting in Middle Georgia” in *Religion in the News*, edited by Mark Silk, Trinity College, Massachusetts), Summer, 2006.


“Cult Fighting in Middle Georgia” in *Religion in the News*, edited by Mark Silk, Trinity College, Massachusetts), Summer 2006.


"Community and Commitment in the Rajneesh Foundation" (September, 1986) *Update*. Aarhus, Denmark.


