Spirituality, Religion, and Secularity in the Pacific Northwest: Seeking Participants for Oral History Interviews

A research team based at the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria is conducting a research project on spirituality, religion, and secularity in the Pacific Northwest. Dr. Paul Bramadat is the project director.

We are interested in this project in understanding the historical origins of the region's distinctive patterns of spirituality, including the fact that a much higher proportion of the population of the Pacific Northwest are irreligious than is the case elsewhere in North America, the differences between the Canadian and American parts of the region, as well as the experiences of spiritually committed individuals in societies in which serious spiritual commitment is relatively rare. The project has received full ethics approval by the University of Victoria's Human Research Ethics Board.

We are seeking to interview people whose family members have lived in some part of the Pacific Northwest for between 90-100 years, and who for more than one generation have identified themselves as unbelievers, atheists, agnostics, or as just not interested in religion. If possible, we are hoping to interview members of two generations of the same family. Interviews will take approximately 60-80 minutes of your time and be held at a location of your choice.

Prior to the interview, we will ask participants to review and sign an official consent form that will summarize our research interests and will also provide details with respect to how we will use the data and your freedom to withdraw at any point.

Participants will receive a $10 Starbucks gift card and will be entered into a draw to win an Apple iPad. Participants will also be compensated for public transit costs and parking costs associated with participation in the interview.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Lynne Marks, Professor in the Department of History at the University of Victoria at LSMARKS@uvic.ca for more information. If you are not interested, or not part of the group I am seeking but know of others who might be, please feel free to circulate this ad.