Author Meets Critics

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• Thank you...
Trend-Tracking

* 7 Adult…1975 → 2005: > 10,000
* 4 Teen….1984 → 2008: > 15,000

- Readings of
  - Boomers  * Pre-Boomers  * Post-Boomers
  - Teens    80s  90s  00s  Now

- Statistics Canada’s General Social Surveys: 1985-present
- New global surveys: 2000-plus

Together: surveys lots of information on how we have changed & not changed since 1960s
New Data -> Clearer Readings

New Interpretations
• *In chronicling the times...*
I. Secularization
Especially hard hit:

Mainline Protestants

& Quebec Catholics
The United Church Situation

National Membership  (In 1000s)

The Anglican Church Situation

National Membership  (*In 1000s*)

![Graph showing the national membership of the Anglican Church from 1941 to 2011. The membership peaked in 1971 and has since declined.]
The Quebec RC Situation
Monthly-Plus Adult Attendance, 1965-2005
Predictions of Religion’s Demise

- Emile Durkheim
- Sigmund Freud
- Karl Marx
- Bryan Wilson
- Steve Bruce
The Problem
Some teams have not been losing
Canadians Identifying With Conservative Protestant Groups: 1871-2009 (%)

Source: Statistics Canada census data and 2009 GSS.
Religious Identification in Canada: 2009 and 1931

Service Attendance by Group: 2009

- **NATIONALLY**
  - Monthly+: 28
  - Never: 42

- **Evangelicals**
  - Monthly+: 62
  - Never: 43

- **RCs Outside Quebec**
  - Monthly+: 23
  - Never: 42

- **Other World Faiths**
  - Monthly+: 24
  - Never: 42

- **Presbyterian**
  - Monthly+: 34
  - Never: 32

- **Lutheran**
  - Monthly+: 33
  - Never: 34

- **Anglican**
  - Monthly+: 26
  - Never: 39

- **United**
  - Monthly+: 26
  - Never: 40

- **RCs Quebec**
  - Monthly+: 20
  - Never: 38

Legend:
- Monthly+: Blue
- Never: Orange
• Pockets – many – of vitality

• Religion is not going away

• Yet, also clear that there has been a momentum swing away from religion
Service Attendance: 1975-2010
Monthly-Plus and Never

SOURCES: Reginald W. Bibby, Project Canada Survey Series, 1975-80,
Canadian Service Attendance: 2010

- Never: 42
- Weekly: 19
- Monthly: 9
- Yearly: 30
Inevitable & Increasing

Linear & Unlimited

Secularization

Inevitable & Increasing

Revitalization
We awake today, not to a secularized Canada, but to a polarized Canada.

A solid core of people continue to value faith; but a growing core do not.

A significant proportion remain in the middle – something like “the politically undecided” – dropping in and not dropping out.
The Polarization Continuum

Because life is dynamic, movement in both directions of “the polarization continuum” has been taking place and will continue to take place.

But neither will disappear in the foreseeable future.

What is at issue is the extent to which both will ebb and flow – grow or not grow.

Those in middle could go either way.
Dynamic...ever-changing
2. There is an ongoing market for religion.

On the Religion Side...
“Our souls are restless until they find their rest in Thee”  

- St. Augustine

All of us have “a fundamental dis-ease” that leaves us “forever restless, dissatisfied, frustrated, and aching”  

– Ron Rolheiser
Emile Durkheim

science doesn’t move fast enough... may never be able to address some issues, notably death

Rodney Stark

there is always a market for religion

“People continue to have needs that only the gods can satisfy” – Rodney Stark

Secularization ≠ end of religion;
secularization → innovation
Committed Core

Religious Vitality
What’s more... religion continues to be important in most settings across the planet.

Of course there are variations; but its persistence is unmistakable.
Committed Core → Immigrants → Religious Vitality
The Numbers…

- 2.0 billion Christians
- 1.2 billion Muslims
- 0.8 billion Hindus

Roman Catholics

- 1 billion worldwide
- 75 million US
- >14 million Canada

* 7 million Quebec, 7 million outside Quebec; 4 million Ontario
Newsflash!

RELIGION MAKING A GLOBAL COMEBACK

• “Christianity on its biggest roll in its 2,000 year history
• its numbers & market share: at all-time highs; 2050 = over 3 billion
• 1950-2000: Roman Catholics grew from 500 million to over 1 billion
• 1900-2000: Pentecostals: from zero to half a billion
• >1950: Adventists: 1 to 16 million; 200 countries; 90% outside NAM

• key growth: Africa, Asia, Latin America
• by 2050: could be 220 million Christians in China – 15% of pop
• Global North: 32% of world’s pop in 1900, 18% in 2000; 2050 = 10%
• Global South: 68% - 82% - 90%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Increase</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christians</td>
<td>69,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Catholics</td>
<td>37,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pentecostals</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslims</td>
<td>68,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindus</td>
<td>37,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese folk</td>
<td>10,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buddhists</td>
<td>10,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atheists</td>
<td>1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sikhs</td>
<td>1,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jews</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Barrett et al. 2001:4 and Bibby 2011:204.
## Religious Identification of Immigrants: 1990-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Roman Catholic</th>
<th>Protestant</th>
<th>Other Faith</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990-2004</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005-2010</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Immigration Fast Facts

- **Immigration**: % of pop born outside Canada (20%) highest 75 years
  - Responsible for two-thirds of pop growth for 2001-2006
  - Pop increased by 1.6 million; 1.1 = immigrants
- **2010**: a record 280,000 new permanent residents admitted
- **Main sources**: Philippines (37T), India, China (30T ea), UK, USA (10T)
- **Ontario**: received 42% (54% in 2005, 59% in 2001)
  - AB 6%-12%; MB 2-6%; QC 15%–19%
Monthly-Plus Attendance, People Born In & Outside Canada: 2010 (%)

Religious Vitality

Committed Core
Immigrants
Ambivalent Middle
Surprisingly large numbers of people “in the middle” – even some “at the non-religious end” – have not shut the door on religion.

For many, religion potentially has a role to play.
Frequency of Personal Religious Practices or Spiritual Activities: 2010

“How often in the past year have you engaged in personal religious practices or spiritual activities?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly+</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Few Year</th>
<th>Yearly</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Importance of Religious or Spiritual Beliefs: 2010

“To the way you live your life”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Not Very</th>
<th>Not At All</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34%</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Receptivity Among “The Religiously Undecided”

Canadians Attending Less Than Once A Month

62% of adults

40% of teenagers

receptive to greater involvement

*IF*

ey they can find it to be worthwhile
People are not looking for CHURCHES.

They are looking for MINISTRY.
“What would make greater involvement worthwhile?”

- Spirituality
- Personal
- Relational
So it is that the desire for things religion historically has addressed persists. But an important reshuffling & refurbishing of players is taking place.
3. The Restructuring of Religion in Canada
- **Good news for religious groups:** religion’s future not in question

- **Ongoing needs of large numbers:** guarantees ongoing role for religion

- **Sobering news for religious groups:** their futures anything but guaranteed

- **The Key** = performance
Maybe the old...

- Est. groups are not fly-by-night operations.
- Have long histories, recuperative powers.
- They retreat, retrench, revamp, resurface.
- Go down only so far – then come back.
- New leaders, new resources.
Maybe Something Else

Durkheim...

“The old gods are growing old or are already dead, and others are not yet born. There are no gospels which are immortal, but neither is there any reason for believing that humanity is incapable of inventing new ones.”
The current situation is characterized by

A Reshuffling of Players
The Primary Players in the Past

- Other Faiths
- Conserv Prots
- RCs
- Mainline Prots
Teach our students:

**A GOOD EXPLANATION**

(1) can account for the data and
(2) has predictability.

In my mind,

**POLARIZATION** –

vs. relentless, inevitable, linear-like

**SECULARIZATION** –

or for that matter,

**REVITALIZATION** –

meets those two criteria.