

Olivier Roy, *University of Montréal, Canada*

Secular Homonationalism: Sexuality at the Intersection of Nation and Religion

olivier.roy.6@umontreal.ca

The place of religious symbols – from the “traditional” crucifix in the National Assembly to the “foreign” veil, turban and *kirpan* – elicited a debate in Québec society since 2007. With laicism presented as a central value of Québec’s national identity, as well as the equality between men and women, religious symbols and beliefs, and their sometimes heteronormative and sexist content, have been castigated as threats to Québec’s “modernity”. The place of sexual minorities in this debate has not received much attention in mainstream media. What are the perceptions of Québec’s French speaking sexual minorities toward the religiosity of new immigrants? How are they conceiving the possible interaction between such religiosity and homosexuality? Through a critical discourse analysis of Québec’s three main French gay media and other materials produced by gay organizations, we will analyze how a normative homosexuality is constructed around a particular conception of the nation and of religion. This presentation intends to show the importance of an intersectional paradigm to study (homo)sexualities. It will therefore highlight how sexuality, nation and religion, among other axes of differentiation, should be understood in their interactions, in order to provide for a better understanding of the constitutions of subjectivities and symbolic frontiers.

Olivier Roy is a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at University of Montréal. His research focuses on the lived experiences of homosexual immigrant men’s in Québec society, at the intersections of their racial/ethnic and sexual identities with possibly contradictory symbolic frontiers. His interests are in the sociology of homosexualities and in queer and intersectional theories.