APPENDIX

Seminars and Consultation in the Department of World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka

Seminar on Academic Study of Religion – 2003

S[ession]1 ‘Introduction to academic study of religion: history, characteristics, issues, training’
Joseph T. O’Connell (University of Toronto [UT]), seminar coordinator

S2 ‘What is meant by “religion”? Pertinence of the work of Wilfred Cantwell Smith’
J.T. O’Connell (UT)

S3 ‘Relationship between academic study of religion and personal faith, values and aptitudes of the scholar’
Kazi Nurul Islam (World Religions & Culture [WRC], University of Dhaka [DU]); Gervas Rozario (WRC, DU); Major Seminary, Dhaka]; J.T. O’Connell (UT)

S4 ‘Historical discipline and methods in the study of religion’
Ashfaque Hossain (History [Hist], DU); Fazrin Huda (WRC, DU); J.T. O’Connell (UT)

S5 ‘Art history discipline and methods in the study of religion’
Najma Khan Majlis (Islamic History and Culture [IHC], DU)

S6 ‘Study of religion through literature’
Aminur Rahman (Bangla [Bang], DU)

S7 ‘Religious instruction in primary and secondary education in Bangladesh’
Masuduzzaman (Institute of Education and Research [IER], DU); Miriam Begum (IER, DU)

S8 ‘Modernization, Secularism and Islam’
Syed Anwar Husain (Hist, DU)

Seminar on History of Religion in Bengal – 2007

S1 ‘Orientation and objectives of the seminar’
J.T. O’Connell (UT)

S2 ‘Iconographic and archaeological evidence for pre-Aryan religion in Bengal: Chandraketugarh’
Enamul Haque (International Centre for Study of Bengal Art [ICSBA], Dhaka)

S3 ‘Sociological approaches to religious history in Bengal’
K.A.M. Saauddin (Sociology [Soc], DU)

S4 ‘Religious traditions in Bengal up through the Sena period’
Paresh Chandra Mandal (Sanskrit [Sk], DU)

S4 ‘Issues affecting the Buddhist tradition in Bengal’
Niru Kumar Chakma (Philosophy [Phil], DU)

S5 ‘Religious history of Bengal: the advent of Islam’
Md. Abu Sayem (WRC, DU)

S5 ‘The Islamic tradition in Bengal: its characteristics as reflected in art and architecture’
Najma Khan Majlis (IHC, DU)

S6 ‘Christianity in Bengal: origins and developments’
Md. Shaikh Farid (WRC, DU)

S6 ‘History of Christianity in Bengal: evangelization and mission in Bangladesh’
Tapan Rozario (WRC, DU)

S6 ‘Religious aspects of Adibashi life in Bangladesh’
Eva Sadia Saad (WRC, DU)

S7 ‘Chaitanya Vaishnava bhakti as integrating disparate socio-cultural interests in Sultanate Bengal’
J.T. O'Connell (UT)

S7 ‘Bengali devotional music and song: padaboli-kirtan’
Karunamaya Goswami (Vice-Chancellor of Cambrian College, Dhaka)

S8 ‘Further reflections on the origins of the Muslims in Bengal’
Abdul Momin Chowdhury (Hist, DU)

S8 ‘Ecological perspectives on the Faraizi Movement’
Ittekhar Iqbal (Hist, DU)

S9 & S10 ‘History of religion in Bengal: Significant Scholarship, Current Situation, Future Prospects’
Roundtable discussions (two sessions) of priorities, chaired by K.A.M. Saaduddin (Soc, DU)

S11 ‘Buddhir mukti andolan o Dhaka Muslim Sahitya Sabha’ (Freedom of intellect movement and the Dhaka Muslim Sahitya Sabha) [in Bangla]
Abul Kasem Fazlul Haque (Bang, DU)

Seminar on Academic Research on Religion in Bengal – 2008

S1 ‘Report on recent research on religion in Bengal’
J.T. O'Connell (UT)

S2 ‘What do we mean by “religion” as a subject for academic research?’
Roundtable discussion on paper by J.T. O'Connell (UT)

S3 ‘Researching on the religious implications of migrant Bengali women’s experience’
Thérèse Blanchet (Director of Drishti, Dhaka)

S4 ‘Views of religion by some late 19th-century Bengali Muslim Writers’
Anisuzzaman (Bang, DU)

S4 ‘Kayekti sampratik Bangladeshi Musulman tariqa samparke samalocana’ (Critique of some contemporary Bangladeshi Muslim organizations) [in Bangla]
Abdullah al Mahmud (WRC, DU)

S5 ‘Bahais in Bangladesh: a brief report’
Md. Jahangir Alam (WRC, DU)

S5 ‘Sociological approach to research on religion: Bangladesh perspectives’
K.A.M. Saaduddin (Soc, DU);
Responses by Kazi Nurul Islam (WRC, DU) and J.T. O’Connell (UT)


Day 1 – 14 March, 2010

Morning inaugural session: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Presiding: Kazi Nurul Islam (WRC,DU)

Convener: Eva Sadia Saad (WRC, DU)
Chief Guest: Vice-Chancellor A.A.M.S. Arefeen Siddique (DU)
Special Guest: Pro-Vice-Chancellor Harun-or-Rashid (DU)
Keynote speaker: Joseph T. O'Connell (UT)
Afternoon working session: 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Presiding: Syed Anwar Husain (Hist, DU)

1. The meaning of ‘religion’ in South Asian contexts – Consulting: Asha Mukherjee (Visva-Bharati [V-Bh], India), Bijoy Mukherjee (V-Bh, India), K.A.M. Saaduddin (Soc, DU)

2. ‘Dialogue’ in relation to ‘religious study’: How to teach about another’s religion – Consulting: Kazi Nurul Islam (WRC, DU), Gisela Webb (Seton Hall University [SHU], USA), Fr. Emmanuel Rozario (WRC, DU), Shaikh Farid (WRC, DU)

Day 2 – 15 March, 2010

Morning working session: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Presiding: Asha Mukherjee (V-Bh, India)

1. Addressing women’s issues in the study of religion – Consulting: Vijaya Ramaswamy (Jawaharlal Nehru University [JNU], India), Eva Sadia Saad (WRC, DU), Thérèse Blanchet (Drishti)

2. Understanding religious mentalities through literature and language - Consulting: Monsur Musa (Institute of Modern Languages, DU), Paresh Chandra Mandal (Sk, DU)

Afternoon working session: 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Presiding: Gisela Webb (SHU)

1. Progress reports on recent / current research on religion – Reporting: Susmita Chatterjee (JNU), Md. Abu Sayem (WRC, DU)

2. Studying religious sentiments expressed through the arts – Consulting: Michael Webb (Drexel University, USA), Pierre-Alain Baud (Music researcher, France), Karunamaya Goswamy (Cambrian College, Dhaka)

Evening video program of Sufi music and rituals: 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Presenting: Pierre-Alain Baud

Day 3, 16 March 2010

Morning working session: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Presiding: Aminul Islam (Phil, DU)

1. Students’ session: their objectives, concerns and suggestions – Consulting: Students of WRC, DU

2. Survey of existing university programs in religious studies in South Asia and Indonesia; practical proposals for developing religious studies in South Asian universities - Consulting: scholars with experience in their respective universities: Eva Sadia Saad (DU), Nurul Husain Choudhury (University of Rajshahi [RU]), Md. Aminul Islam (Islamic University, Kushtia), Asha Mukherjee (V-Bh, India), Vijaya Ramaswamy & Susmita Chatterjee (JNU, India), Gisela Webb (SHU & Gaja Mada University, Jogjakarta, Indonesia), Vellakudy Alagaratnam (Eastern University of Sri Lanka)

Afternoon working session: 4:00 – 6-30 p.m. – Presiding: K.A.M. Saaduddin (Soc, DU)

1. Social scientific methods and resources for religious studies in South Asia – Consulting: A. Aminul Islam (Soc, DU), Bijoy Mukherjee (V-Bh, India), Razia Akter Banu (Political Science, DU), H.K.S. Arefeen (Anth, DU), Rehan Masoom (Soc, DU)

2. Historical methods and resources for religious studies in South Asia – Consulting: A. Momin Choudhury (Hist, DU), Enamul Haque (ICSBA), Nurul Husain Choudhury (RU), J.T. O’Connell (UT)

3. Formal conclusion and expressions of thanks – Kazi Nurul Islam (WRC, DU)

Evening program of Bengali song: 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.