



Personal and Political: The Many Spheres of Interfaith Peace Efforts

Jane Carney, Scotty Campman, Charlie Radgowski

Advisor: Dr. Laura Leming (SSC 200 H3/H6)

This project is a literature review focusing on the efficacy of interfaith peace and mutual understanding efforts in a variety of contexts. Our findings are that interpersonal connection, accurate and complete religious education, and cooperation between church and state actors support peaceful pluralism in society.

State level interfaith cooperation efforts:

- Secular civil society is a mediating force between religious groups in conflict (Walton, 2013)
- Established churches provide support to interfaith government efforts (Koers, 2018)
- A world religion model can be exclusionary (Koers, 2018)
- Interfaith cooperation takes place on multiple levels (Koers, 2018 and Walton, 2013)

Specific strategies for interpersonal relationships and interfaith education:

- Overcoming self-identification impulses (Fernandez, 2019 and Moritz, 2018)
- Lack of education on other religions and how to talk about them is a barrier to cooperation. (Fernandez and Coyle, 2019)
- Emphasizing tolerance and praxis over orthodox teaching supports interfaith harmony (McCarthy, 2007)
- A metacognitive approach to interfaith education is most effective (Moritz et al, 2018)

Interfaith cooperation in practice:

- Disaster relief in Aceh: interpersonal connection and perception of religion determine if efforts are well-received (Fountain, 2016)
- Confronting a history of racism: the daily practice of tolerance and interpersonal connection is difficult and requires confronting our own prejudices (Sutherland, 2007)
- Israeli/Palestinian conflict: The sharing of personal experiences and the practice of compassionate listening leads to mutual understanding (Cahn, 2014)