

**Christopher Cutting** [ccutting@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca] is a doctoral student in religious studies at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada in the joint Religious Diversity in North America program. His dissertation explores how a secular Canada, in the context of the policy goals of its multicultural law, accommodates and protects the religious freedom of Ontarians who wish to practice faith-based arbitration in Ontario. One of the central purposes of this study is to document Muslim and Jewish practices, experiences and perceptions of faith-based arbitration by both service providers and clients. Cutting earned his MA in religion and culture from Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada, where he completed a major ethnographic project exploring the role of Islam and the Muslim community in the identity, integration, and sustainability of immigrant Muslim university students. He was a graduate researcher in a major ethnographic endeavor from 2004 – 2006 titled: The New Religious Diversity in the Halifax Regional Municipality Project, funded by Heritage Canada. This was a major fieldwork project documenting immigrant religious diversity in Halifax. He presented his findings in a paper on “Muslims around the Harbour: Successes, Challenges, and Prospects of Muslim communities in the Halifax Area” at the New Religious Diversity in the Halifax Region Community Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada 2007. This research will also be published as a book chapter in *Religious Diversity and Immigration in Halifax* (Nimbus Press, forthcoming in 2009).