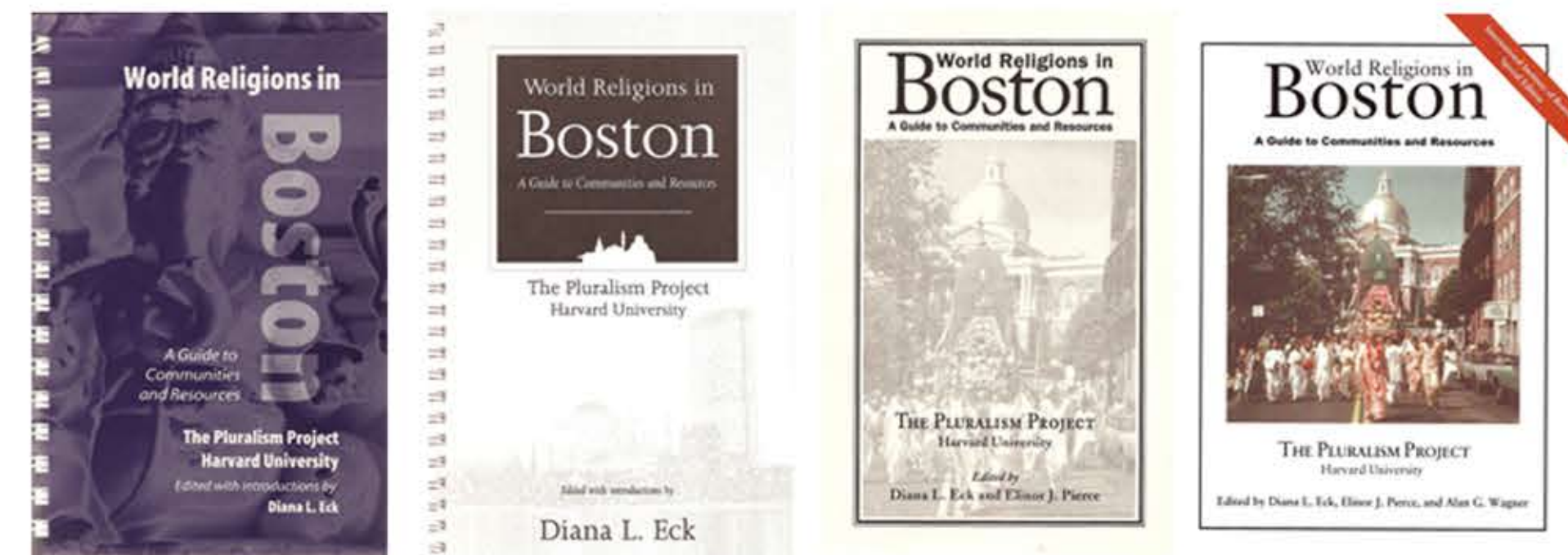


# The Pluralism Project at Harvard University



## 1965

The Immigration and Nationalities Act is passed by the United States Congress as part of a trio of civil rights legislation. Attorney General Robert Kennedy remarked: "As we are working to remove the vestiges of racism from our public life, we cannot maintain racism as the cornerstone of our immigration laws."



## 1990s

Shortly after the founding of the Pluralism Project, the first edition of *World Religions in Greater Boston: A Guide to Communities and Resources* is published. Four print editions would follow throughout the 1990s.

A special edition of WRGB is printed in 2000 and is accompanied by "Faithful Boston," a photo exhibition hosted by the International Institute of Boston. In 2009, another updated version of *World Religions in Greater Boston* is released online.

## 1996

The www.pluralism.org website is launched to serve as an "online flier" for the Pluralism Project's work.

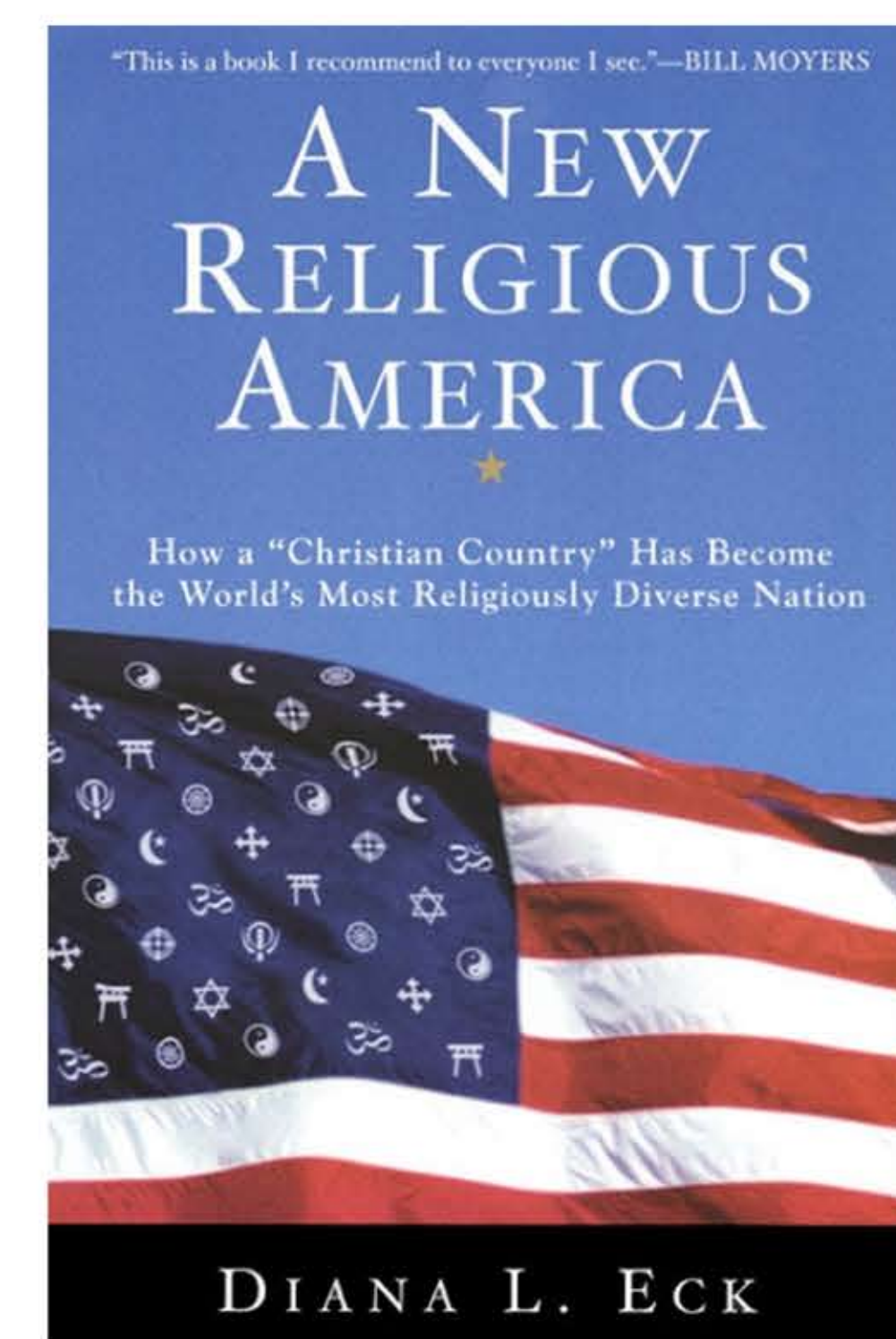
## 1997

The first edition of the CD-ROM *On Common Ground: World Religions in America* is published by Columbia University Press. Research for the CD-ROM began in 1994 and subsequent editions are released in 2002, 2008 and 2013. *On Common Ground's* original structure continues to orient the Project's pedagogical resources today.

Pluralism Project researchers start tracking religion in the news for the *Religion Diversity News* resource. Today, RDN includes over 30,000 domestic and international articles in its online archive.

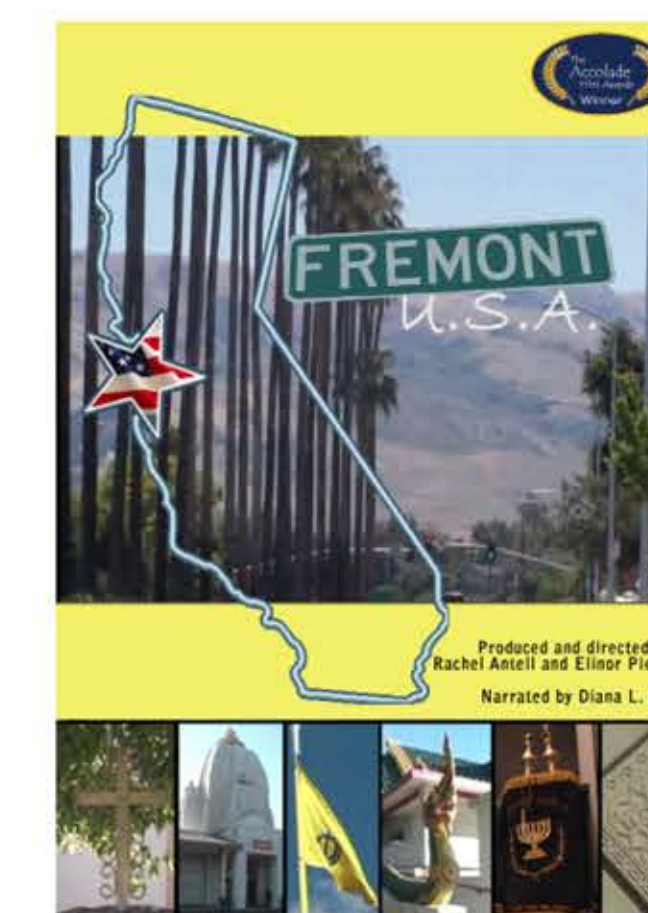
## 1999

The Pluralism Project convenes two groundbreaking consultations on multireligious America. The Consultation on Religious Discrimination and Accommodation and the Symposium on Civil Society and Multireligious America brought scholars, civic leaders—including representatives from diverse advocacy groups and the White House—as well as Pluralism Project affiliates and advisors to a common table.



## 2003

The Pluralism Project's website is named "Best of the Web" in the category of "Spirituality" by the 7th Annual Webby Awards.



## 2009

*Fremont, USA* is released. The film documents one city's response to its increased religious diversity and was produced by Pluralism Project Research Director Ellie Pierce and Affiliate Rachel Antell.

*Fremont, USA* is the second film Antell produced with the Pluralism Project. The first, *Acting on Faith: Women's New Religious Activism in America*, premiered in 2005.

## 2012

The Pluralism Project publishes the results of a pilot study of interfaith initiatives in the United States. This research, *America's Interfaith Infrastructure*, continues today, expanding beyond the original 20 cities and inspiring similar efforts both at home and abroad.

In June, the Pluralism Project hosts a two-week seminar on interfaith leadership, co-taught by Dr. Diana Eck and Dr. Jenny Peace, of Andover Newton Theological School. The seminar is intended for theological school students in Greater Boston who are preparing for religious leadership.



## 2016

The Pluralism Project is awarded the Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize from Hofstra University. Hofstra President Stuart Rabinowitz said of the Pluralism Project and co-recipient Serve 2 Unite: "These two organizations use education and dialogue to promote tolerance, compassion and religious understanding. Now more than ever, I can think of no work that is more important."

## 1980s

The children of the "new immigration" begin arriving at college in record numbers. Dr. Diana Eck, a scholar of religion at Harvard, took notice of her classroom's changing demographics. "When I first met these new students—Muslims from Providence, Hindus from Baltimore, Sikhs from Chicago, Jains from New Jersey—they signaled to me the emergence in America of a new cultural and religious reality about which I knew next to nothing," she wrote in *A New Religious America*.



## 1990-1991

Dr. Diana Eck offers for the first time "World Religions in New England," a seminar course that included fieldwork at landmark religious centers around Greater Boston, from Sri Lakshmi Temple in Ashland to New England's first mosque in Quincy. The questions Dr. Eck and her students explored as part of the course set the agenda for what would become the Pluralism Project.

## 1998

The Pluralism Project hosts its first reception at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. The reception becomes an annual tradition where former student researchers, affiliates, and other friends of the Project can gather to share stories from the field. Since the mid-1990s, the Pluralism Project's affiliate program has grown to include over seventy professors from institutions around the country and world.

Dr. Diana Eck is awarded the National Humanities Medal by the National Endowment for the Humanities for her work on American religious pluralism.

## 2000

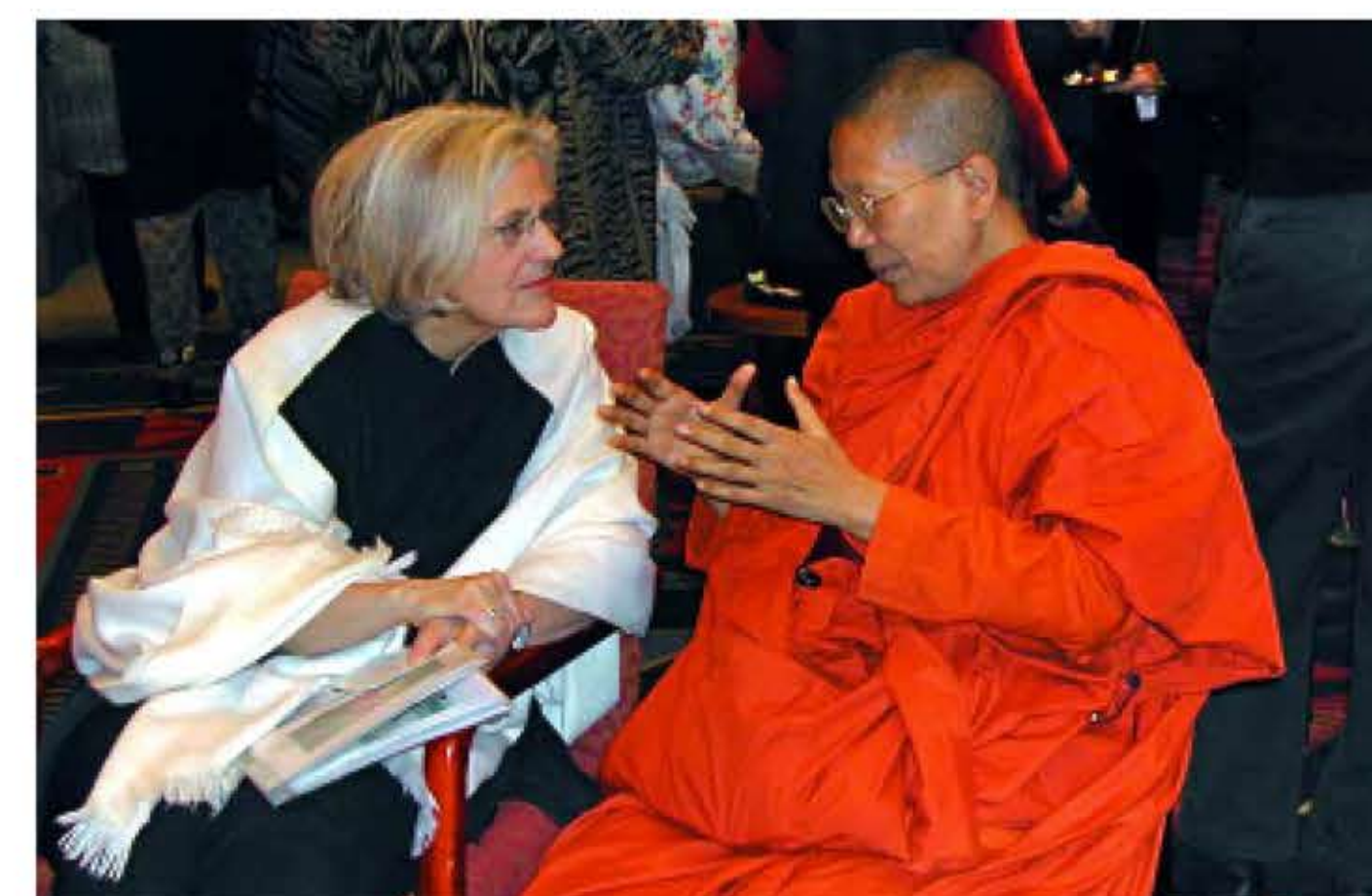
The Pluralism Project is awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to offer "World Religions in America," a six-week summer seminar for schoolteachers.



## 2001

Dr. Diana Eck's *A New Religious America: How a "Christian Country" Has Become the World's Most Religiously Diverse Nation* is published and draws from the first decade of the Pluralism Project's work. A reprint edition is released in 2002 with a post-9/11 preface.

The Pluralism Project begins cultivating a women's network that shares research and common concern over the lack of representation in formal religious and interfaith leadership roles, despite the critical role of women in communities. The first consultation is held in April 2001 and a second, planned in the wake of 9/11, is held in November. From 2002-2004, three additional meetings take place, one in partnership with Harvard Kennedy School's Women and Public Policy Program, another as follow up to the groundbreaking 1983 "Women, Religion, and Social Change" conference, and a third at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.



## 2004

The Pluralism Project develops a summer internship program as the next phase in its commitment to engaging undergraduate and graduate students in the process of field research. From the Project's founding, students have participated in meaningful ways, including presenting at annual fall research conferences hosted at Harvard's Barker Center and at Harvard Divinity School.

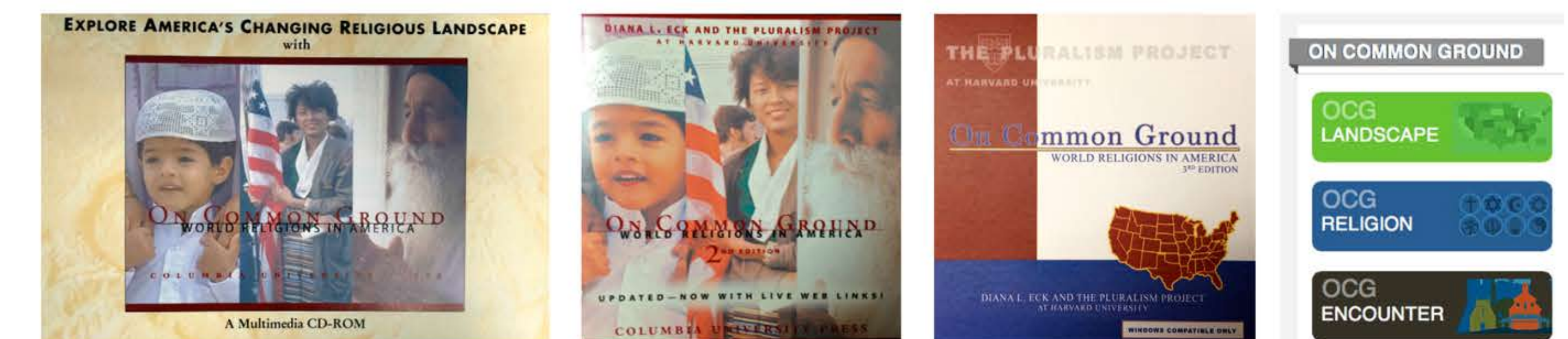
## 2007

Dr. Diana Eck pilots "Religion in Multicultural America: Case Studies in Religious Pluralism," a course that uses the case method to discuss dilemmas that arise in multireligious society. Since the initial pilot, interest in the course has grown exponentially.

Dr. Eck and Research Director Ellie Pierce founded the Pluralism Project's Case Study Initiative in 2005. Today, the Project's case collection includes more than 20 cases that are used in classrooms and communities around the country.

## 2010

Academics and professionals from law, education, and religious studies participate in the Pluralism Project's summer Case Study Fellowship Program. Fellows research and produce cases on topics such as controversies over holiday displays at a public school in Vermont and campus efforts to be inclusive of Sikh students in California.



"Twenty-five years of engaging with the realities of religious diversity through research, outreach, and the active dissemination of resources."