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"We have become the most religiously diverse nation on earth. We have this challenge in the U.S. to do something that has really never been done before, which is to create a multireligious and democratic state."

Areas of expertise

- Religious pluralism
- Religious traditions of India
- Immigrant religions in America

Topics in the News

- [The Pope, pluralism and the future of the church](#)
- [National discussion of "moral values"](#)
- Religious diversity in the U.S.
- Reaction to the war in Iraq
- Reaction to terrorist attacks
- Church-State issues and pluralism

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Biography


Diana Eck is one of America's leading scholars of religion. Since 1991, she has been

heading the Pluralism Project at Harvard, exploring the new religious diversity of the U.S. and its meaning for American pluralism at home and internationally. The Pluralism Project has been documenting the growing presence of the Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, Jain, and Zoroastrian communities in the U.S. In 1996, she was appointed to a U.S. State Department Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad, and in 1998 she was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Clinton. She received the Montana Governor's Humanities Award in 2003, and the Melcher Lifetime Achievement Award from the Unitarian Universalist Association in 2003.

Resources by this expert

- *India: Myth on Earth* (in progress)
- *A New Religious America: How A Christian Country Has Become The World's Most Religiously Diverse Nation* (Harper San Francisco, 2001)
- *Darsan: Seeing the Divine Image in India* (Columbia University Press, 1998)
- *On Common Ground: World Religions In America* (CD-ROM) Columbia University Press, 1997
- *Encountering God: A Spiritual Journey from Bozeman to Banaras* (Beacon Press, 1993; republished in 2003)
- *Banaras, City of Light* (Knopf, 1982)

Recent Interviews & Articles

- *The Capital Times*, April 21, 2007, "[Religious pluralism suits a more diverse Madison](#)"
- *Centre Daily Times*, March 10, 2007, "[Religious beliefs don't rely on the 'existence' of God](#)"
- *Charlotte Observer*, January 20, 2007, "[A look at Charlotte's diverse religious scene](#)"
- *News Blaze*, December 1, 2006, "[U.S. Military Chaplains Support More than 100 Faiths](#)" 
- *National Public Radio*, November 3, 2006, host Farai Chideya, "[Direct Democracy, Crouch on Obama](#)" 
- *Associated Press*, October 19, 2006, by Deepti Jajela, "[Hindu Lesson Plan: New ways of passing on the religion to the young being tried in U.S.](#)" 
- *The Boston Globe*, February 2, 2006 "[Shutting out a voice for Islam](#)" - Op-Ed 
- *The Boston Globe*, August 14, 2005 "[On Roads Less Traveled, Spirituality Takes Flight Even as Some Catholic Parishes Close, Other Houses of Worship Thrive.](#)" 
- *Toledo Blade*, April 24, 2005 "Weighty International Issues Face New Pope; Relations With Islam Closely Watched"
- *Toledo Blade*, April 23, 2005 "Comments Fly Soon After Smoke Leaves Chimney"
- *Religion News Service*, April 19, 2005, "Liberal Catholics Hope for the Best, Prepare for the Worst with Ratzinger"
- *Newsweek*, April 18, 2005 "Prayers for New Life"
- *Christian Science Monitor*, April 18, 2005 "Major Tests Confronting Next Pontiff"
- *Boston Globe*, April 13, 2005 "Finding Their Religion, Young People are Seeking Faith in Non Traditional Ways"
- *Toledo Blade*, April 9, 2005 "Effort to Forge Interfaith Harmony Had Great Success, But Not Always; Russian Orthodox Church Rebuffed Overture for Reconciliation. (This story was also picked up by the *Boston Globe*)"
- *The Providence Journal*, January 8, 2005 "[Tsunami Survivors Face Rebuilding of Another Kind - Their Trust in God](#)"
- *Pacific News Service*, January 12, 2005 "[All Things Asia Are Becoming Us](#)"

Organizational links for this expert

- [Harvard Divinity School](#)
- [The Pluralism Project](#)

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