



Course Title	Tensions of Transdisciplinarity: A Master Class on Religious Communities and Sustainable Development
Category	Religious Studies, Sociology, Theology & Development Studies
Course Period	May 31st – June 11th 2021
Course Structure	The course is divided into three interlinked modules: Module M1: Advanced course in content and methods in the empirical study of religious communities; Module M2: Research-based learning; Module M3: Communicating scientific research results. In all three modules, the question of transdisciplinarity and its implementation is a central cross-cutting theme.
Course Level & Target Group	M.A. students and Ph.D. candidates with an academic background and a strong interest in religious studies, theology, sociology, and development studies or related subjects
Course Language	This course is taught in English, including readings in English. For the understanding of the texts and the discussions in class a language level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.
ECTS	5 ECTS
Instructors	Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Gräß Juliane Stork Marie-Luise Frost Philipp Öhlmann

Course Description

In recent years, a highly transdisciplinary field has emerged from politics, development and religious practice, and science that examines the role of religious communities in processes of sustainable development under the heading of 'religion and sustainable development'. A particular characteristic of this dynamically growing field is that a considerable part of the knowledge production is done by policy and development practice actors as well as by religious communities themselves. Policymakers and practitioners in development cooperation have recognized religion as a socially transformative factor that can have an impact (positive or negative) on sustainable development processes. Religious communities and religious organizations are increasingly aware of their role as development actors. In this context, fundamental questions of scientific transdisciplinarity arise: How can science connect with politics and practice, as well as develop relevance for practice? Moreover, how can development practice repeatedly question and adjust its own strategies in dialogue with science?

The intensive course: "Tensions of Transdisciplinarity: A Master Class on Religious Communities and Sustainable Development" is aimed at M.A. students and Ph.D. candidates from African and German universities. It follows the concept of research-based learning that has been implemented at HU Berlin for several years (see <https://bolognalab.hu-berlin.de>). Furthermore, it integrates various methodological classes and lectures from international academic scholars, to promote students' empirical research skills and their ability to communicate empirical research results to a wider audience. The course is organized by the Research Programme on Religious Communities and Sustainable Development (RCSD) at HU Berlin, in cooperation with international partners (www.rcsd.hu-berlin.de).

The Master Class is planned as an in-person event in Berlin with digital components, but - if the current

pandemic situation makes this necessary - it can be held entirely as an online event. Thus, the course will explore the development of the EU as a political entity, will try to understand the reasons for the current crises and will finally also try to look ahead – what future for European integration?

Course Schedule

Preliminary schedule:

Day 1:	Time	Title	
Monday, 31/05/2021	9.00 – 10.30	Welcome & Introduction	
	11.00 – 12.30	M1-1a Lecture: "Tensions of Transdisciplinarity: Methodological and Theoretical Points of Departure in the Study of Religious Communities and Sustainable Development"	
	13.30 – 15.00	M1-1b Seminar session: "Tensions of Transdisciplinarity: Religion and Sustainable Development as Transdisciplinary Field"	
	15.30 – 16.30	M2-1 Introduction to the research groups and allocation of participants to group	Each group will be accompanied by one summer school lecturer throughout the course period
	18.00 – 20.00	Welcome evening: joint dinner at the Jewish Restaurant Hummus&Friends	
Day 2:	Time	Title	Lecturer
Tuesday 01/06/2021	9.00 – 10.30	M1-2a Lecture: "Ecological Sustainability in Muslim Communities – A South African Perspective" (digital lecture)	
	11.00 – 12.30	M1-2b Seminar session: Ecological Sustainability as Islamic religious knowledge	
	13.30 – 15.00	M1-3a Research methods I: An overview over qualitative research methods in the study of religious communities: ethnography and the ethnographer's (problematic) perspective	
	15.30 – 16.30	M2-2a Research groups – participants plan their joint empirical project (,Lehrforschungsprojekt')	
	18.00 – 20.00	International Department evening: informing about HU Berlin and possibilities to study in Germany	
Day 3:	Time	Title	Lecturer
Wednesday 02/06/2021	9.00 – 10.30	M1-4a Lecture: Religion and Development in the Middle East	
	11.00 – 12.30	M1-4b Seminar: Religion, Peace and Dialogue in the Middle East	
	13.30 – 15.00	M1-3b Research methods II: Interview methods, Participating observation	
	15.30 – 16.30	M2-2b Research groups – participants plan their joint empirical project (,Lehrforschungsprojekt')	
Day 4:	Time	Title	Lecturer
Thursday 03/06/2021	9.00 – 10.30	M1-5a Lecture: "Who is speaking on Religion and sustainable Development? – Decolonizing theory and practice!"	
	11.00 – 12.30	M1-5b Seminar: Approaches to decoloniality	
	13.30 – 15.00	M1-3c Research methods III: Data analysis	
	15.30 – 16.30	M2-2c Research groups – participants plan their joint empirical project (,Lehrforschungsprojekt')	

Day 5:	Time	Title	Lecturer
Friday 04/06/2021	9.00 – 10.30	M1-6 Lecture: Coalitions for development? Ethics of Ubuntu, Catholic Social Teaching and Confucianism in Dialogue	
	11.00 – 12.30	Guided visit to university library (Grimm-Zentrum): Library usage and open access publications	
	13.30 – 15.00	M1-3d Research methods IV: Advanced course on Research ethics	
	15.30 – 16.30	M2-2d Research groups – participants plan their joint empirical project („Lehrforschungsprojekt“)	
	18.00 – 20.00	Historical boat trip on the river Spree	
Day 6:	Time	Title	Lecturer
Saturday 05/06/2021	9.00 – 10.30	Visit to Berlin Cathedral (Berliner Dom) / Sehittlik-Moschee (participants choose one)	
	11.00 – 12.30	Visit to Pergamon Museum	
	13.30 – 18.00	M2-2f Research groups – participants plan their joint empirical project („Lehrforschungsprojekt“)	
Day 7:	Time	Title	Lecturer
Sunday 06/06/2021	whole day	M2-3 Research day – participants conduct their own small-scale empirical research projects	
Day 8:	Time	Title	Lecturer
Monday 07/06/2020	09.00-10.30	M1-7a Lecture: "Gender Justice between Theory and Practice of Religious Communities"	
	11.00-12.30	M1-7b Seminar session: "Gender Justice between Theory and Practice of Religious Communities"	
	13.30-17.00	M2-4 Research results day – participants evaluate their empirical data and prepare a small presentation	
Day 8:	Time	Title	Lecturer
Tuesday 08/06/2021	8.30 – 11.00	M1-8a Public keynote:	
		M1-8b Public keynote:	
	11.30 – 13.00	M2-5a Open forum: public presentation of participants' own research projects (e.g. master/PhD theses)	
	14.30 – 16.30	M2-5b Open forum: public presentation of participants' own research projects (e.g. master/PhD theses)	
	17.00 – 18.00	M3-1a Public lecture series Religious Leaders' Perspectives on Development: „The Lutheran Bapedi Church – Decolonial developments since 1890“	
Day 9:	Time	Title	Lecturer
Wednesday 09/06/2021	8.30 – 11.00	M1- 8c Public Keynote:	
		M1-8d Public keynote: Mission histories. On the relationship between conversion and "development" in the history of Christian missions	
	11.30 – 13.00	M2-5c Open forum: public presentation of participants' own research projects (e.g. master/PhD theses)	
	14.30 – 16.30	M3 – 2a Development practice insights	
	17.00 –	M3-1b Public lecture series Religious Leaders'	

	18.00	Perspectives on Development: „Women Leadership in a Ghanaian Pentecostal Church“	
Day 10: Thursday 10/06/2021	Time	Title	Lecturer
	8.30 – 11.00	M1-8e Public keynote: The engagement of Poverty Alleviation in Buddhist Communities M1-8f Public keynote: Religion and Development – what do we know, what don't we know? Perspectives for further engagement in an emerging sub-discipline	
	11.30 – 13.00	M2-6a Presentation session: research groups present their projects and results	All lecturers
	14.30 – 16.30	M2-6b Presentation session: research groups present their projects and results	All lecturers
	17.00 – 20.00	M3-1c Public lecture series. Religious Leaders' Perspectives on Development: „The role of religious communities in fostering social cohesion in a South African Townships“	
Day 11: Friday 11/06/2021	Time	Title	Lecturer
	8.30 – 09.15	M3-2b Public Policy & Practice keynote: „What is the added value of faith-based development cooperation? The case of Brot für die Welt“	
	09.15 – 10.30	M3-2c Public panel discussion: Revisiting our knowledge and ideas about Religion and Development – how to proceed?	N.N.; N.N.; N.N.
	11.00 – 12.30	M1-9 World Café: Pathways to future collaboration	
	13.30 – 16.30	Results, feedback and closing remarks	
	18.00	Summer School dinner hosted by International Department	
Day 12: Saturday 12/06/2021	Time	Title	Lecturer
		Departure	

Course Objective & Learning Outcomes

Participants will be supported in the concretization and implementation of their own research projects in the field of religion and development. They will get to know important empirical research methods on religion as well as crucial contents presented by high-ranking scholars in the field of religion and development through the master class.

Readings

Reading materials will be available during the course.

Expectations & Policies

Preparation for lively discussions in the virtual classroom: be on time, have at least the required readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification.

Assignments: complete all assignments according to the specified requirements on schedule including handing over to the lecturer.

Commitment in online-class: pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions

(classmates', lecturers).

Academic guidelines: Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical) especially the academic honor code and the student code of conduct (see *FAQs* on www.huwisu.de).

Attendance policy: No unexcused absences are permitted. Students must contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the HUWISU office.

Your Instructors

Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Gräb
Juliane Stork
Marie-Luise Frost
Philipp Öhlmann

Please note that the course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: February 2021