



Course Title	Between Cosmology and Community: Religion and Sustainable Development
Category	Religious studies, theology, development studies, cultural studies, sociology, anthropology or related subjects
Class Time	July 20th – August 01st 2020 daily from 9am - 5pm (Please check the attached schedule)
Course Level & Target Group	18 participants; 12 master students and 6 PhD candidates. 10 participants from South Africa, 4 participants from other African countries and 4 students from Germany will be accepted to participate.
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	tba
Instructors	Qualified staff from the Research Programme on Religious Communities and Sustainable Development at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, from the Faculty of Theology and Religion at University of Pretoria and the Department of Religion and Theology at the University of the Western Cape will jointly teach at the summer school.

Course Description

Cosmology and Community highlight a field of tension and constitute two foci: On the one hand, religious communities are social entities, whose constitutive factor is the interaction among their members and with wider society. On the other hand, the distinctive feature of religious communities is their reference to cosmology. They are agents of world view production, identity formation and values synthesis. With respect to sustainable development, Community indicates active contributions by religious agents to processes of social, economic, ecological and cultural transformation. Cosmology refers to the ideological dimension, the impact of the formation of mind-sets, belief and knowledge systems, attitudes and behaviour on these processes of transformation.

Sustainable development is often understood as such development that produces sustainable change. The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a key frame of reference, but related to the realm of Cosmology, the aim of the Summer School will be to investigate notions of development both of religious communities and their respective ideological presuppositions. The current discourse on religion and development largely takes place within a secular framework. This is challenged by the perspective of religious actors themselves, for whom development is part of religion, i.e. professional and academic experts' notions of development represent only one dimension in a more comprehensive human and social transformation. Hence, under the theme of Cosmology, the Summer School will analyse notions in religious communities as the good life, human flourishing and transformation in relationship to dominant western and secular notions of development and modernity.

Course Objective & Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

MA students:

- Apply the knowledge in the field of religion and development that was gained during the week to their own studies
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- Design their own empirical research
- Conduct field work on their own within a guided program
- To produce substantial academic outcomes in cooperation with international partners

PhD Candidates:

- Tutor a small group of MA level students
- Have engaged with other PhD candidates and Professors within their field of research and have planned joint publications
- Apply the knowledge in the field of religion and development that was gained during the week to their own projects and to apply the skills gained in the advanced research course to their own projects
- To produce substantial academic outcomes in cooperation with international partners

Readings

Required and suggested readings will be sent to participants after successful application.

Course Schedule

The summer school is divided into a course week and a research week.

Course week (20 – 26 July 2020):

The first week will focus on theories and methods in the research field of religion and development covering the following focal areas:

- Religion and (Decolonial) Development,
- Religion and Ecology,
- Religion and Gender Equality,
- Religion and Peace and
- Religion and Politics.

The teaching formats are lectures, seminar sessions and group work. In addition, there will be excursions to religious communities and keynote lectures by religious leaders.

During this course week master students will form international learning tandems. These tandems will jointly plan small field research projects to be conducted in the second week (= research week).

Each learning tandem will be supervised by a PhD student, who advises the masters students in the planning of the research methods and the implementation of the field research. PhD candidates are thus given the opportunity to gain experience in academic supervision.

Research week (28 July – 1 August 2019):

In the second week the master students will conduct their own field research in close consultation with their PhD candidate mentor. This could, for example, be an interview with a religious leader on the topic of gender justice in her community or a participatory observation in a religious community on the significance of health and healing. The results of the field research will be presented and discussed in the plenary.

While master students conduct their field work, PhD students will attend an advanced research course, which will prepare them on the topics of science management (third-party funding applications, project management), research ethics, academic networks and academic writing.

Each learning tandem should produce an article on their field work, which will be published online jointly with a paper by each PhD student as results of the summer school.

This course is part of a Summer School Hub of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Participants will also join the general social programme organised by the international office of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Assignments

MA students will design, describe, refine, conduct and present their own field work in religious communities in the surroundings of Cape Town in international research tandems. Their research allows for different empirical qualitative methods.

PhD candidates will present their own research. They will tutor their assigned MA research tandem to

gain experience in teaching and evaluating the quality of someone else's research idea. The aim of the course for PhD students is to plan at least one publication with an international partner (PhD candidate, professor or MA student) present in detail during the course.

Assessment Components

The final grade will be composed of the grade to the assignment as described above and active participation during class discussions, excursions and lectures. A minimum of 80% class attendance is required. Failure to fulfil one of the mentioned components results in failure of the class.

Expectations & Policies

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

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

Commitment in class: pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions and religious or other affiliations (classmates', lecturers, locals engaged with on the visits).

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 (80% class attendance are required).

Field trips: if classes involve a field trip or other external visits, these require attendance as well as appearance in time – transportation difficulties are never valid reasons for an excused absence.

Extra-curricular Activities

- The course 'Between Cosmology and Community: Religion and Sustainable Development' is part of a joint course initiative by HUWISU at University of the Western Cape. Extra-curricular Activities will take place jointly with the two other groups.
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Your Instructors

Wilhelm Gräb, Juliane Stork, Marie-Luise Frost, Philipp Öhlmann

Please note that the course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: February 2020

Between Cosmology and Community: Religion and Sustainable Development
Schedule

Sunday, July 19	
Venue UWC	
Afternoon	Pick up at airport
7 pm	Welcome Reception and Housekeeping
Monday, July 20	
Venue UWC	
9 am	Welcome UWC as host: Mr Umesh Bawa, Director, Int. Office
9:15 am	Introduction to Summer School, Expectations of Participants – Wilhelm Gräß und John Claasen
	Coffee Break
11 – 12:30pm	Virtual Lecture: “Religion and Development” – Severine Deneuline
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Working Groups and Plenary Discussion: Religious Community as Development Actor/Secular Distinction in Development Work/Alternative, Contextual Concepts of Development Teddy Sakupapa and Philipp Öhlmann
4.00 pm	Cont’d Plenary Discussion and summary
6 pm	Dinner
Tuesday, July 21	
Venue UWC	
9 am	Virtual Lecture: Religion and Ecology – Dietrich Werner
	Coffee Break
11 – 12:30 pm	Research Methods: Reflecting on Researcher’s role / intercultural sensitivity – Vanessa Rau
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Excursion: SAFCEI/Green Anglicans on Religion and Ecology – Juliane Stork
7 pm	Dinner
Wednesday, July 22	
Venue UWC	
9 am	Keynote: Religion and Gender Justice – Tanya van Wyk
10:30 – 11 am	Coffee Break
11 – 12:30 pm	Methods: Date Analysis and Protection – Vanessa Rau
12: 30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Group 1: PhD student exchange on research topics/Research pitch, small groups, group 2: MA students plan their field work in pairs – Ignatius Swart and Philipp Öhlmann
3:30 pm	MA students introduce their ideas to the group Ignatius Swart and Marie-Luise Frost
7 pm	Dinner, Social Activity
Thursday, July 23	
Venue UWC	
9 am	Lecture: Religion and Politics – Teddy Sakupapa
	Question and answers
	Coffee Break
11 – 12:30 om	Research Methods: Participatory observation and preparation

	for visits to religious communities – Vanessa Rau
12: 30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Chair: Philipp Öhlmann; Presentation 1: PhD Candidate
	Peer Response
3:30 pm	Seminar: Text work on “Religion and Equality” – Marie-Luise Frost
6 pm	Dinner
Friday, July 24	
Venue UWC	
9 am	All three groups convene for presentation on “Research Landscape Germany”, with Q & A
10:30 am	Coffee Break
11 – 12:30 pm	Cont`d
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Chair: Juliane Stork; Presentation 2: PhD Candidate
	Peer Response
3:30 pm	Practical Insight: Islamic Religious Leaders on Religion and Peace – Muoegamad Gallant
7 pm	Dinner
Saturday, July 25	
10 am	Excursion to Robben Island
	Grill party
Sunday, July 26	
	At free disposal of participants, late afternoon possibly summer concert at Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden
	For Religion Summer School: Guided Church Visits in Small Groups – Marie-Luise Frost, Philipp Öhlmann, Wilhelm Gräb, Juliane Stork
Monday, July 27	
Venue UWC	
9 am	Reflecting Church Visits in Small Groups – Marie-Luise Frost
	Coffee Break
11 – 12:30 pm	Research Methods: Questionnaires – Vanessa Rau
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Mentoring Conversations and Planning of Field Research – various mentors
3:30 pm	Chair: Marie-Luise Frost; Presentation 3: PhD Candidate
	Peer Response
6 pm	Dinner
Tuesday, July 28	
	PhD students: Advanced Course on Research Management – Ignatius Swart and Andreas Rauhut
	Master students: Field work
Wednesday, July 29	
	Reflection of Field Work so far and Orientation for Second Day of Field Work, Research Tandems and Mentors – Teddy Sakupapa and Marie-Luise Frost
	PhD Students: Advanced Course on Research Networks and

	Academic Writing – Philipp Öhlmann and Wilhelm Gräb
Thursday, July 30	
Venue UWC	
9 am	Lecture Ethics of Development – Andreas Rauhut
	Coffee Break
11 – 12:30 pm	Evaluation of Research Results – Juliane Stork
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Evaluation of Research Results: consultation with mentors – Juliane Stork
6 pm	Dinner
Friday, July 31	
Venue UWC	
9 am	Chair: Vanessa Rau, Presentation of Research Results to the Whole Group
	Coffee Break
11 – 12:30	Cont´d
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Presentation of Research Results, for whole group, continued; setting up research plan with mentors – Teddy Sakupapa, Ignatius Swart, Wilhelm Gräb
3:30 pm	Cont´d
7 pm	Fare-well dinner (with other summer school groups)
Saturday, August 1	
Venue UWC	
9 am	World Café as reflection on Summer School – Philipp Öhlmann
11 – 12:30 pm	Chair: Marie-Luise Frost; Evaluation and Feedback for the Summer School
12:30 pm	Lunch
Afternoon	Free time
Sunday, August 2	
	For Religion Summer School: Guided Church Visits in Small Groups
12:30 pm	Lunch
Afternoon	Reflecting church visits in small groups
7 pm	Dinner, Religion Summer School