



Virtual exchange methodological seminar

Is Religion a Colonial Construct?

An Introduction to Postcolonial and Decolonial Approaches to the Study of Religion

Organised by

University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN) – South Africa
Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose (FSCIRE) – Italy
University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) – Tanzania

February – May 2025

1. General information

Dates: (to be confirmed by UDSM): February 18th and 25th, March 25th, April 29th, May 27th

Hours of teaching: 2-4pm (CET); 3-5pm (SAST); 4-6pm (EAT)

Enrolment cost: free of charge

Modality: Virtual Exchange

Online Platform: Zoom (the link will be provided few days before the first workshop)


Contact person for non-UKZN/UDSM participants: Francesco Cargnelutti, cargnelutti@fscire.it

Target group: Honours, MA, PhD students and post-doc researchers

Deadline for registration for non-UDSM/UKZN participants: February 8th

2. Purpose of the workshops

The purpose of the workshops is to enable participants to learn about:

- Post-colonial and decolonial approaches and theories to the study of religion
 - The influence of post-colonial and decoloniality on religion as it engages with gender, sexual orientation, race, class, migration and climate change
 - How to conduct healthy and meaningful dialogue on coloniality, postcoloniality and decoloniality in diverse context and culture
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3. Course structure

The first workshop aims at getting to know each other and at evaluating the level of knowledge of the participants and their expectations on this VE module.

The other four workshops consist of:

- Two main macro-themes addressed by the lecturers in a plenary setting. These are: post-colonial and decolonial approaches to the study of religion; the intersectionality of religion with race, class and gender.
- Student-centred activities to promote intercultural and transnational discussion. All participants shall be given a set of readings for individual text-analysis as a diachronic activity to be carried out before the workshops. During the workshops, participants will be divided into small international break-out groups (10-15 people) guided by trained facilitators and will discuss with their colleagues the content of those readings and of the inputs of the lecturers.

4. Learning outcomes

At the end of the workshops, participants should be able to do the following:

- To describe accurately post-colonial and decolonial approaches and theories to the study of religion
- To determine correctly the influence of post-colonial and decoloniality on religion as it engages with gender, sexual orientation, race, class, migration and climate change
- To conduct a healthy and meaningful dialogue on coloniality, postcoloniality and decoloniality in diverse context and culture

5. Evaluation of non-UKZN/UDSM participants

Participants not enrolled in UKZM or UDSM will receive a certificate of attendance by FSCIRE if they participate in 4 workshops out of 5.

