



Virtual exchange methodological seminar

Is Religion a Colonial Construct?

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

2nd edition

Organised by
University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN) – South Africa
Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose (FSCIRE) – Italy

October – December 2025

1. General information

Dates: October 16th, 23rd and 30th, November 6th and 20th, December 4th

Time: 2-4pm SAST (N.B. Until October 23rd, the CET time will be 2-4 and it will then become 3-5pm due to the switch to daylight-saving time)

Modality: Virtual Exchange


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

Enrolment cost: free of charge

Deadline for the enrolment: October, 10th 2025

2. Purpose of the workshops

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

- Post-colonial and decolonial approaches (main theories and methods) to the study of religion
 - The historical intersection of religion, coloniality and decoloniality
 - How to conduct healthy and meaningful dialogue on coloniality, postcoloniality and decoloniality in diverse context and culture
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3. Learning outcomes

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

- To describe accurately Post-colonial and decolonial approaches (main theories and methods) to the study of religion
- To determine correctly the historical intersection of religion, coloniality and decoloniality
- To conduct a healthy and meaningful dialogue on coloniality, postcoloniality and decoloniality in diverse context and culture

4. Evaluation of non-UKZN/UDSM participants

Participants not enrolled in UKZM will receive a certificate of attendance by FSCIRE if they participate in 4 sessions out of 6.

5. Structure

The workshop is structured into three seminar-based sessions and three group work-based sessions. During the seminar-based session, an introductory lecture on a specific topic and case study will be followed by a Q&A session where participants will be able to engage with the lecturer. Every seminar-based session is followed, in the coming week, by a group work-based session. During a short initial plenary moment, the lecturer will resume the main inputs and questions raised during the previous seminar. Participants will then be divided into small international break-out groups (10-15 people) guided by trained facilitators and will engage with their colleagues in the analysis and discussion of the lecture as well as of assigned readings. Each participant is required to read the assigned text/source diachronically in order to prepare for the work group-based session. At the end of the group discussion, participants will go back to the plenary setting to have a general discussion nurtured by the presentations of the discussions occurred in the single groups.



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