



Virtual exchange methodological seminar

Methodology of Research in Religious Studies

Organised by

Fondazione per le scienze religiose (FSCIRE) – Bologna/Palermo

Tangaza University College (TUC) – Nairobi

Kenyatta University (KU) – Nairobi

16 October – 27 November

1. General information

Dates: October 16th and 30rd, November 13th and 27th

Hours of teaching: 2 hrs. per meeting, from 5pm to 7pm EAT/4pm to 6pm CET (due to the switch to the standard time, the last three meetings will take place at 3pm-5pm CET while the EAT time will be fixed at 5-7pm)

Enrolment cost: free of charge

Online Platform: Zoom (the link of the meetings will be shared few days before the beginning of the course)

For registration: Francesco Cargnelutti, cargnelutti@fscire.it

2. Description/course purpose

The seminar “Methodology of Research in Religious Studies” is intended as a general introduction and will be specifically devoted to the main methodological aspects of a scientific research (in Religious Studies). It will focus on: a) Data gathering and analysis: practical steps to start a research project, focusing on the identification of relevant sources and literature for your research paper, the analysis of different sources typology, the compilation of a bibliography, etc.; b) Theoretical framework of the research work (historiography) with special reference to Africa.





3. Course structure/modules

The specialization course consists of:

- **Four lectures** dealing with: 1) research methodology for historical sources (including Oral History method) ; 2) case study: sources for the study of the history of the Church in Africa; 3) theoretical framework: focus on post-colonial approaches to the study of history of religion.
- **Student-centered activities** (based on the Virtual Exchange Model) to promote intercultural and transnational discussion. The students will be divided in small international break-out groups, guided by a trained facilitator. These activities (such as sources analysis, debates, guided discussions) are a constitutive element of the seminar.

The virtual exchange activity for this seminar is a synchronic debate based on a previous text analysis prepared by the participants (divided in small groups) diachronically. The debate will take place at the end of each lecture.

Facilitators' task: they will support the group in the preparation of the debate and moderate the debate itself.

Lecturers' task: they will provide a couple of texts (depending on how many students we have) related to their specific lecture's topic as a starting point for the debate.

4. Expected learning outcomes

- Participants will become familiar with the main methodological steps to study religion from a critical-historical point of view;
- They will thus be able to identify the main tools and resources of academic research, to identify the relevant literature for their research topic, to access and analyze a variety of different sources (both written and oral), and to write their own essays and long papers;
- To strengthen this methodological training, students will also acquire a general knowledge of the main historiographical theories and theoretical framework;
- Finally, thanks to the different Virtual Exchanges activities implemented, students will enhance their critical thinking, acquire strong intercultural communication skills and improve their self-confidence.

5. Evaluation of the students

Participants will be evaluated on the basis of their active involvement in the activities. Students not enrolled in KU or TUC, will receive a participation certificate of attendance by FSCIRE.

6. Evaluation of the Specialization Course

A general evaluation of the course and its activities (through evaluation questionnaire and formative assessment) will be carried out by FSCIRE.



7. Seminar lectures and content

16 October

The "Historian's Craft" and Its Critical Thinking Skills as Tools for Citizenship: Contextualising, Analysing, and Interpreting Primary and Secondary Sources

Prof. **Silvia Cristofori** (FSCIRE, UNILINK)

30 October

Alternative' Sources for the Study of Religion: Oral History and Narrative Interviews

Dr. **Ilaria Macconi** (FSCIRE)

13 November

The Actual Sources for Studying Contemporary History of Religion in Africa

Dr. **Joseph Mwaniki** (Church History Department/Tangaza University College)

27 November

Postcolonial Thoughts and the Reading of Religious History in the African Context

Dr. **Joseph Mwaniki** (Church History Department/Tangaza University College)



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