



## Minor Frontiers of Multicultural Societies

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Onderwijscentrum VU - Minoren - 2012-2013

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# Global Religion and Local Diversity

<b>Vakcode</b>	S_GRLD ()
<b>Periode</b>	Periode 2
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Voertaal</b>	Engels
<b>Faculteit</b>	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
<b>Coördinator</b>	prof. dr. J.T. Sunier
<b>Docent(en)</b>	prof. dr. J.T. Sunier
<b>Lesmethode(n)</b>	Hoorcollege
<b>Niveau</b>	200

## Doel vak

Students are able to describe and interpret the role of religion under global conditions. They understand the complex interrelationship between religion on a global scale due to the role of modern mass media on the one hand and local diversification of religious practices and phenomena. They see the role of religion in processes of identity construction in various settings and understand central concepts and theories in the study of religion.

## Inhoud vak

Whether we like it or not, religion has become one of the main political and social issues of our time. Religion has become a major factor in a wide variety of global developments and processes. The place of religion in the contemporary societies cannot be properly understood without taking into account the fact that religions have become globalized. In the first place due to migration processes across the world, religions have traveled too. As a consequence local religious diversity has increased tremendously. Globalization has also brought about homogenization tendencies in all spheres of life. Paradoxically, however, the homogenizing tendencies of globalization at the same time reinforce processes of cultural heterogeneity and diversification. Globalization has also brought about anxieties about the disruption of local cultures and communities and thus triggered a process of 'social closure'. Modern nation states attempt to domesticate global flows, particularly when they are said to jeopardize the national political, social and cultural status quo. Events taking place on the other side of the world exert direct influence, at least bear relevance to the production of religious knowledge and processes of community building. We cannot understand for example experiences of young Muslims in Western cities without taking into account what happens in Afghanistan. Modern mass media have made local religious leaders into world celebrities. The prominence of the Dalai Lama, leader of the Tibetan Buddhists, has turned Buddhism into a world religion. Pentecostal churches are the fastest growing religious movements in the world today. At the beginning of the 21st century religion has become a strong social and cultural force that is crucial to the politics of belonging on a global scale. This course explores a broad range of past and contemporary studies in Western and non-Western societies. It focuses not only on institutionalized religious traditions, but on all modalities and expressions of religiosity.

## Onderwijsvorm

Lectures and tutorial

### Toetsvorm

Written examination (60%) and assignments (40 %)

### Literatuur

A compilation of book chapters and articles; most of which will be digitally available.

### Doelgroep

Obligatory course for students in the minor Frontiers in Multicultural Societies; optional course for 2nd and 3rd year Bachelor's students and students of the Exchange Programme.

### Overige informatie

Basic knowledge in the social sciences is requested.

## Identity and Diversity in Organizations

<b>Vakcode</b>	S_IDO ()
<b>Periode</b>	Periode 2
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Voertaal</b>	Engels
<b>Faculteit</b>	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
<b>Coördinator</b>	F. ten Holder MSc
<b>Docent(en)</b>	A. van Os MSc
<b>Lesmethode(n)</b>	Hoorcollege, Werkgroep
<b>Niveau</b>	300

### Doel vak

The aim is to develop insight in identity and diversity related processes of in/equality and in- and exclusion in organizational life.

The goal is to provide students with the analytical instruments to analyze and assess 'what is going on' in organizational settings in which identity and diversity, as reflections of societal developments, prevent or enable people from full participation.

### Inhoud vak

Identity and diversity are ever more salient themes within organizations. Various approaches of identity in organizations provide different perspectives on how diverse identities relate to each other within organizational settings. Some focus on the processes of sense making, others focus on the notion of power in relation to identity in order to understand processes of in- and exclusion within organizations. Ethnicity, gender, physical condition, and age are explicit categories that could become sources of exclusion. Background, class, and education play a role in a more implicit sense. There are various reasons for organizations to become inclusive of diversity. It is commonly believed that if diversity is managed well, it could increase creativity by broadening the scope of organizations. Yet, organizations are also open arenas in which societal and global discourses of otherness and exclusion are reproduced and practiced. These processes of in- and exclusion are sometimes explicit but mostly implicit and hard to trace because they are embedded within organizational culture and taken for granted in social practice. In this course, an overview of theoretical

perspectives relating to identity and diversity issues will be provided with the specific attention for concepts such as power and discourse. This theoretical framework is used to engage with several societal discussions such as affirmative action and the introduction of quotas. Students will be challenged to reflect upon their own positioning in relation to these theories by preparing case studies in subgroups.

### Onderwijsvorm

Lectures and group presentations

### Toetsvorm

Assessment is based on participation in lectures and discussions and a final exam. The final written exam counts for 70% of the grade and 30% is based on the group presentation. Students need to pass both elements.

### Literatuur

To be announced

### Doelgroep

Students of the Minor Organizational Culture, students of the Minor Frontiers of Multicultural Societies and exchange students.

## Radicalization and Conflict

<b>Vakcode</b>	S_RC ()
<b>Periode</b>	Periode 1
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Voertaal</b>	Engels
<b>Faculteit</b>	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
<b>Coördinator</b>	dr. J. van Stekelenburg
<b>Docent(en)</b>	dr. J. van Stekelenburg
<b>Lesmethode(n)</b>	Hoorcollege, Werkgroep
<b>Niveau</b>	300

### Doel vak

Students have insight into processes of polarization and radicalization based on cultural and religious social identities. They understand how group processes and institutional and cultural dynamics shape cultural conflicts between social groups.

### Inhoud vak

Ethnic and religious identities have increasingly become a focal point of social conflict. Ranging from interpersonal discrimination and group conflicts to demonstrations, riots, and terrorism, cultural identities seem to have radicalized, both among native and migrant groups. They have become a major concern for various policy makers. How has cultural identity become so politicized? And is it really a sign of this time? What for instance about the Spanish separatist movement ETA, or the Irish IRA opposing British rule in Ireland? This course analyzes contemporary Western polarization and radicalization and compares it to more historical and non-western episodes of radical conflict. What happens at the individual and group level? And how does the institutional and cultural dynamics in society help shape and prevent religious and cultural conflicts between groups?

**Onderwijsvorm**

Lectures and study groups

**Toetsvorm**

Written exam and assignments

**Literatuur**

To be announced

**Doelgroep**

Bachelor students, exchange students

**Sociology of Globalization and Multiculturalism**

<b>Vakcode</b>	S_SGM ()
<b>Periode</b>	Periode 1
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Voertaal</b>	Engels
<b>Faculteit</b>	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
<b>Coördinator</b>	drs. B. Slijper
<b>Docent(en)</b>	drs. B. Slijper
<b>Lesmethode(n)</b>	Hoorcollege
<b>Niveau</b>	200

**Doel vak**

1. Students are familiar with the history of the nation-state as a dominant model, and its importance for current debates over globalization and multiculturalism;
2. Students are able to distinguish between the different theories of globalization;
3. Students are able to distinguish between the different theories of multiculturalism and immigrant assimilation ;
4. Students are able to critically evaluate the presumed effects of globalization and immigration on national societies, cultures and identities.

**Inhoud vak**

Contemporary nation-state-societies are based upon the two norms of a) homogeneity and b) uniqueness. Internally, the ideology of the nation-state prescribes the need of some degree of homogeneity in culture, language, religion and/or ethnicity as the basis of social cohesion and cooperation. Externally, the nation state is legitimized by a claim of uniqueness of (national) identity.

These norms are now under severe pressure by two related processes: globalization and international migration. Whereas migration has led to an increase in ethno-cultural and religious diversity within societies, globalization exerts homogenizing pressures, thereby reducing cultural differences between national societies.

This course will offer the student a broad overview of the facts and figures of globalization and immigration, its effects on national cultures, and the most important theoretical debates within this thematic.

**Onderwijsvorm**

Lectures

**Toetsvorm**

Written examination

**Literatuur**

Kivisto, Peter & Thomas Faist (2010). Beyond a border: The causes and consequences of contemporary immigration. London: Sage.

Additional articles available on-line (t.b.a.)

**Doelgroep**

Bachelor students; Exchange students

**Overige informatie**

This course is part of the Minor Frontiers of Multicultural Societies.

**Urban Struggle**

<b>Vakcode</b>	S_US ()
<b>Periode</b>	Periode 3
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Voertaal</b>	Engels
<b>Faculteit</b>	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
<b>Coördinator</b>	dr. F. Colombijn
<b>Docent(en)</b>	dr. P.G.S.M. Smets, dr. F. Colombijn
<b>Lesmethode(n)</b>	Hoorcollege, Werkgroep
<b>Niveau</b>	300

**Doel vak**

Students can explain and understand processes of urban struggles concerning different types of inclusion and exclusion. Students obtain qualitative research skills.

**Inhoud vak**

The majority of the world population lives in cities, which are characterized by a diversity of urban dwellers. Interaction between urbanites with different ethnic, religious, and social backgrounds, and lifestyles is expected to nourish the livability of cities. The social (ethnic, religious) diversity may also form a stimulus to economic development and enhance the economic status of the city dwellers. However, the potential benefit of social (ethnic, religious) diversity for the liveliness and livability of cities is often hampered by the growing gap between the better-off and poorer sections of society. This course will address the mechanisms of spatial, socio-cultural and socio-economic exclusion and inclusion that form the basis of such cleavages. The desirability of certain mechanisms of exclusion and inclusion will be questioned and attention will be paid to interventions by the state and private actors to counter specific types of exclusion or segregation. During this course, students will also be introduced to a number of classical texts in urban studies. Moreover, students will conduct fieldwork looking into contemporary urban struggles in a Dutch urban context.

**Onderwijsvorm**

Lectures and tutorial

**Toetsvorm**

Assignments (40%), oral presentation (10%) and jointly written final paper (50%).

**Literatuur**

To be announced

**Doelgroep**

Obligatory course for students in the minor Frontiers of Multicultural Societies; optional course for 2nd and 3rd year Bachelor's students and Exchange students.

**Overige informatie**

Basic knowledge in the social sciences is requested.