

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL
ON
RELIGION, CULTURE AND SOCIETY
IN
EUROPE [1750-]

RELIGION AND MODERNITY

Leuven, 27 August - 4 September 2012

The Summer school in Research on Religion, Culture and Society in Europe [1750-] is an initiative of KADOC - KU Leuven.

KADOC, the Documentation and Research centre on Religion, Culture and Society of the KU Leuven, is involved in different international scientific networks on the subject and wants to foster the quality of future historical research.

The summer school offers its students an introductory training by means of a balanced program of seminars, lectures and field trips. Established researchers on the field develop specific topics and cases, students have the possibility to present their own work and discuss their ideas in a relaxed and open atmosphere and within a multidisciplinary framework.

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After an introductory key-note lecture on the general theme of the summer school, the programme provides more in-depth discussions of 6 related themes:

- structure and organisation of churches,
- gender and piety,
- international missionary movement,
- statistical data on religiosity,
- christian identities and material expression,
- religion and the modern welfare state.

A specialist instruction to these research topics and the existing literature during an afternoon lecture (15-17 h.) provides a frame-work for a more in-depth discussion of papers during a morning seminar (10-13 h.).

Bibliographies, key-texts and other materials will be made available to the students in advance.

English will be used as the operational language of the course and as the language of instruction. The programme accommodates the use of other European languages, e.g. French and German.

Religion and Modernity

Religion in Europe has taken an unexpected turn. Although European societies - both in the East and in the West - were once looked upon as highly secularised and unchurched, expressions of Christianity, Islam and “new” religions are asserting themselves in the public domain. The reappearance of religion has far-reaching social and political implications in all European countries. These need to be properly understood. It is high time to question the idea of a disenchanting Europe, and to take a closer look at the complicated historical relationship between religion and modernity.

The 2009 Summer School on Religion, Culture and Society in Europe (1750-) will focus explicitly on this issue. It will offer its students a solid introduction to the very different domains in which religion has influenced, (re)shaped and even embodied the modernisation process, but also the continuous adaptation and transformation processes of the religious domain itself, thus finding a clear contemporary reflection in Europe’s cultural identities. The much-disputed concept of modernity and its fundamental ambiguities will also be developed.

Students will be made aware of the significance of this interaction, often resulting in tensions and intermixtures, the dominant processes that were involved and the variety of societal domains in which it took place: social politics, international relations, science, architecture and visual arts, civil society, European integration etc. Although the courses take a broad international and interdenominational perspective, the analysis chiefly focuses on Western Europe and on Christianity. The courses will help students to reflect independently on the subject, reconsidering in their own research the dichotomies and ambiguities associated with the relationship religion-modernity by former historiography.

The societal and cultural significance of religion during the age of modernity has indeed often been portrayed in dichotomous and often ambiguous ways. Proponents of the secularisation thesis argue that the rapid economic, social, cultural and political transformations that embodied modernity, linearly weakened the hold of religion on society. This has led many scholars to underestimate or

even ignore the significance of religion as an explanatory factor in 19th- and 20th-century history. A more balanced scientific view on this issue has arisen over recent decades. More current literature points out that religion has not only been confronted by but has also interacted with the different manifestations of modernity, often resulting in tensions and intermixtures. The intertwining relationship between religion and modernity can be seen as a major explanatory factor in many areas of European history. It has exerted powerful influences in different areas of societal life including politics, science, media, education, international relations, socio-economic structures, art and culture. Any credible account of secularisation must take account of the continuing significance of institutions of religious belief, in the public as much as the private sphere.

Program

SUNDAY 26 AUGUST 2012

Arrival in Leuven

18 h. : Welcome at KADOC

Evening walking tour of Leuven

MONDAY 27 AUGUST 2012

9.30-12 h. Morning session

Key-note lecture: Religion and modernity in Europe (1750-); new stakes and research objectives (Staf Hellemans, Tilburg University)

15-18 h. Afternoon session

Lecture: Structure and organization of churches (Jan De Maeyer)

TUESDAY 28 AUGUST 2012

10-13 h. Morning session

Seminar: Structure and organization of churches (Jan De Maeyer)

15-18 h. Afternoon session

Lecture: Gender and Piety (Tine Van Osselaer)

Evening programme

Optional guided visit to KADOC, Documentation and Research Centre on Religion, Culture and Society

WEDNESDAY 29 AUGUST 2012

10-13 h. Morning session

Seminar: Gender and Piety (Tine van Osselaer)

15-18 h. Afternoon session

Lecture: International missionary movement (Carine Dujardin)

THURSDAY 30 AUGUST 2012

10-13 h. Morning session

Seminar: International missionary movement (Carine Dujardin)

15-18 h. Afternoon session

Lecture: Statistical data on religiosity (Koenraad Abts)

Evening programme

Optional guided visit to the Leuven Carillons, 8.00 pm.

FRIDAY 31 AUGUST 2012

10-13 h. Morning session

Seminar: Statistical data on religiosity (Koenraad Abts)

15-18 h. Afternoon session

Lecture: Christian identities and material expression (Jan De Maeyer)

SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2012

Field Trip: Ghent and Loppem-Bruges

Christian identities and material expression

(Jan De Maeyer)

SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2012

Free Day

MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2012

10-13 h. Morning session

Seminar: Christian identities and material expression

(Jan De Maeyer and Peter-Jan Margry)

15-18 h. Afternoon session

Lecture: Religion and the modern welfare state

(Patrick Pasture)

TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2012

10-13 h. Morning session

Seminar: Religion and the modern welfare state

(Patrick Pasture)

15-18 h. Afternoon session

Poster seminar: students briefly present and discuss their research in progress

Closing discussion

Evening program

Closing dinner

WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2012

Departure