

Abstracts

The Religious and Ethnic Future of Europe

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Ahola, Miika. University of Helsinki

Towards Universal Church: Ethnic Diversity Challenges Self-understanding of the Churches

Growing migration has in recent decades changed the ethnic landscape of European nations. For many countries this has meant a change from fairly homogenous to a growingly multicultural setting. This phenomenon does not mean only bigger variety of religions, but also a variety of denominations and groups within the religions. The churches in Finland, particularly the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, have previously adapted to certain nation-state idea that has now been challenged. The growing variety of languages and ethnic groups is a challenge for churches even from an ecclesiological point of view. In my paper I'm going to introduce some examples of ways how the churches in Finland have reacted to growing migration and study the ecclesiological relevance of those reactions. For many churches this has meant an ideological alteration from local or national towards universal.

AlKatiri, Wardah. The Islamic College Sadra, Jakarta

Desperately seeking unity: A postmodern critique of the modern nation state

In the direction of postmodern critique of modern nation-state characterized by, among others, homogeneity of culture and language, this article presents a case study of Indonesia which happened to be the world largest Muslim population. The nation-building process in a deeply pluralistic society of the Indonesian archipelago – of which forcing unity into diversity was a necessity – turned to be one of the greatest paradoxes. Namely: the very idea of unity for the pursuance of equity contradicts the premise of democracy, because forcing unity into diversity implies denouncing differences, and thus, a violation of human rights to be different. On that account, Indonesia's struggle with diversity has falsified Huntington's thesis, according to which cultural differences necessarily tend to lead to conflict. On the contrary, the plain reality of Indonesia demonstrates that the conflicts stemmed from

nationalism and political-economic ideologies rather than cultural differences. Furthermore, through a reading of the Qur'an, I would like to bring into attention that rights to be in different 'traditions' is associated with rights to freedom of religion, and is a part and parcel of human dignity in Islam. In this phase of globalization and the rise of forced migration due to war and environmental disasters that brought unprecedented diversity of people in many places around the world, Indonesian struggle with diversity is relevant to the world at large.

Neslihan Cevik, Gürol Baba, Onur Unutulmaz, Servet Erdem, Erdal Akdeve, Mehmet Barca.
Social Sciences University of Ankara

Muslim diaspora in Europe: Profile, experiences, and projections

The academic flurry on the concept of diaspora is still unsettled. In the case of Muslim communities, this flurry becomes even more complicated, especially in the current European context, where debates about identity, immigration, and integration have become extremely heated fuelling concerns about escalating anti-immigrant sentiments, Islamophobia, and the rise of extreme right. The fact that reliable and official data on the "Muslim diaspora" concerning demographic and socio-economic features, political postures and positionings are scattered and inadequate exacerbates the lack of dialogue, mutual awareness, and meaningful interaction.

SESRIC, in cooperation with SSUA, has launched a 15-month research project to bridge this empirical gap. The Global Muslim Diaspora Project (GMD) aims at mapping the societal, political, economic, and legal presence and influence of Muslim communities in predominantly non-Muslim societies. The project combines a vigorous review of statistical and academic secondary sources with primary data collection through fieldwork. The ultimate objective of GMD is to create a comprehensive and reliable empirical data source on Muslim diasporic communities around the globe as well as to provide an in-depth analysis about today and prospects for the future.

The paper will present the findings of the project including the first field research in London to create a framework to engage in a discussion with experts in the field and receive their analytical feedback.

Creighton, Mathew J. University College, Dublin

Seeds of Brexit: Hidden Anti-immigrant Sentiment among the Intolerant Left

Attitudes toward immigration have come to define contentious politics in the US and Europe. Brexit and the electoral victory of Donald Trump wrote the first and second chapter of the emergence of an insurgent and assertive rejection of open borders by large swaths of the voting population. A consistent narrative throughout was that voting behavior, which is an anonymous act, defied expectations derived from public opinion polling. People's actions and words did not match. In collaboration with Amaney Jamal, the Edwards S. Sanford Professor of Politics and director of the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice at Princeton University, I conducted a survey experiment to assess the extent to which residents in the UK hid their intolerance of immigrants. Taking into account the political orientation of respondents, we considered immigrants from Eastern Europe, the Caribbean and Muslim countries to assess sentiment rooted in nation, race and religion. The seeds of Brexit clearly emerge with left-wing respondents significantly masking their intolerance when asked directly. Simply put, the seeds of Brexit were sown not by a newly intolerant right, but from a large (and potentially growing) intolerance on the left that was largely hidden from public view.

Czibalmos, Mercédesz. Åbo Akademi University

From Yiddishe khasene to civil marriage: Intermarriages in Finnish Jewish communities

The vastly increasing rate of intermarriages between Jews and non-Jews is central to Jewish concerns about the future preservation of the Jewish communities. In Finland – one of the world's most secular countries – the biggest part of the population belongs to the historically dominant Evangelical Lutheran church. There are approximately 1100 Jews organized into two communities of orthodox heritage in Helsinki and in Turku. The congregations are diverse considering the nationalities of their members, their level of religious observance and their attitudes towards Jewish practices. Many of the members are married to non-Jews. What are the statistics of intermarriages between Jews and non-Jews in Finland during the past hundred years? What is the anticipated rate of interfaith marriages in the future in the

congregations? This case study will focus on Jewish intermarriages in Finland, presenting statistical data derived from various sources of the local Jewish communities.

Dahl, Karoliina. Åbo Akademi

Finnish university students' reflections on the public discussion climate regarding European migrant crisis

European migrant crisis, even called as European refugee crisis, has been visible in many ways since 2015. Simultaneously with the rising immigration numbers, values and opinions regarding immigration are discussed and formed both in private and public. This paper explores how university students from Finland reflect on the public discussion climate and interpret the media discussions concerning the European migration crisis and related issues.

As a part of Åbo Akademi University's research project 'Young Adults and Religion in a Global Perspective' (YARG) 50 interviews about religion and values were conducted with Finnish university students during 2016. The students' opinions on the current situation regarding the rising numbers of immigrants and refugees give insight to their understandings of different values, like equality and tolerance, but also how they are "living out" these values in their everyday lives. This viewpoint is discussed in the paper in students' ways of interacting with the media environment; in their ways of using, choosing and valuing different media.

Dausner, René. Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Humanity and Hospitality. Theology in times of migration

In contrast to the discourses on the relation between religion and violence, the project will focus on the biblical commitment that God can be understood as the one who "loves the stranger" (Dtn. 10.18). With regard to this central passage it shall be asked which implications this image of God can offer. In which way can monotheism be interpreted as "a school of xenophilia" (E. Levinas)? What does the inclination of God to the stranger mean to the understanding of humanity, metaphysics, and migration? Jacques Derrida (1930-2004) has suggested that we understand metaphysics in the context of the thinking of Levinas as

“an experience of hospitality” (Derrida 1999: 46). With regard to this idea, I would like to ask which part (the question of) God can play within the political, sociological, ethical, etc. discourse on diversity and migration.

Duman, Didem Doganyilmaz. Halic University Istanbul

Increased visibility of Islam in European public sphere: A real crisis?

It is believed that the mass refugee flows and dramatically increased asylum applications from Muslim societies to member countries of the European Union will cause significant change in its demographic characteristics. Although presence of Muslims is not a recent phenomena for Europe, the increased visibility has become once again a strong political discourse of right wing political parties. The important question is that are they components of post-truth politics of political leaders of these parties or a real threat for European society. Then; does the European Union face a real crisis? If so, what crisis is it? Is it a refugee crisis, or an identity one; or even worse, is it a crisis as a consequence of intolerance? This paper analyzes the political atmosphere and its effects on society in terms of increased visibility of Muslims and Islamic symbols in the European public sphere to answer those questions.

Fredriksson, Malin. Åbo Akademi

Negotiations of racist hate crimes in the criminal justice system in Finland.

Like many other European countries, Finland has become increasingly multicultural, multireligious, and pluralistic during the last decades. In a multicultural society, the criminal justice system should be capable of protecting the needs of minorities and vulnerable groups. Judicial measurements criminalizing hate crime are important means to fight against intolerance, prejudice, xenophobia and racism, and have a central function in maintaining the ideals of fundamental rights of individuals in a democratic society. A distinct feature of hate crime is that its consequences reach beyond the individual victim to the social group that the victim is assumed to belong to, which means that hate crime can be perceived as a threat against social cohesion. This paper examines some initial questions concerning the capability of the law enforcement agencies to identify hate motives, racism and xenophobia,

and the relevance of social, organizational and cultural factors which shape the decision-making.

Kamppinen, Matti. University of Turku

Exploring the possible worlds and future paths of religious and ethnic actors – the NPW approach.

The network of possible worlds, or NPW for short, offers a theoretical framework where commonsense theory of human action can be systematically linked with such central concepts of future-oriented research like future path, scenario, actor, vision, trend, weak signal, future awareness and foresight development. It enables us to situate religious and ethnic agency in a framework where their navigation in the world of uncertainty and risk captured, and different models of future, held by various actors, can be identified, analyzed, and even negotiated. I propose that in exploring the religious and ethnic futures, the NPW approach provides the optimal tools both for research and policy planning.

Krotofil, Joanna. University College London.

Between traditionalism, fundamentalism and populism - Critical discourse analysis of Polish media coverage of the “refugee crisis”

The recent surge in migration from non-European countries and unprecedented increase in the volume of asylum applications in Western Europe received broad coverage in religious and mainstream media in Poland. This paper discusses the role of religion in the construction of public and political responses to the “refugee crisis” by taking a closer look at the discursive practices in Polish weekly magazines credited with major role in shaping public opinion.

We present critical discourse analysis based on materials referring to immigration and “refugee crisis” published in 2015-2016 in leading weekly magazines associated with both “liberal left” and “conservative right” ends of political spectrum, as well as two explicitly catholic periodicals. We present the results with particular attention to contextual factors,

such as historically shaped national mythology and its present recreations in right wing politics. The results demonstrate that religion plays a crucial role in the public discourse on migrants.

Marfouk, Abdeslam. University of Liege

*I'm Neither Racist nor Xenophobic, but: Dissecting
European Attitudes towards a Ban on Muslims' Immigration*

Abstract: During his presidential campaign, the new elected President of U.S., Donald Trump, called for a complete ban on Muslims from entering the United States. Although numerous European observers have been shocked by his racist proposal, the paper found that a sizeable proportion of Europeans support a similar ban in their own countries, e.g. Czech Republic (54%), Hungary (51%), Estonia (42%), Poland (33%), and Portugal (33%). By using regressions analysis, the paper also provides evidence that racism, immigration phobia, and resistance to diversity play a key role in shaping Europeans' support of a ban on Muslim immigration. This finding challenges the discourse and campaigns of the populist groups who exploit the 'Islamization of Europe' rhetoric successfully and use various pretexts to justify a call for a ban on Muslims' immigration, e.g. the threat to security, secularism, democracy, Western 'identity', culture and values.

Nyyssönen, Heino. University of Turku.

... barely able to keep Europe Christian? Rhetoric of the Migrant Crisis in East Central Europe

In 2015 new axis emerged in the EU, when Hungary, Poland, Czech and Slovakia found a common ground in opposing planned refugee quotas. This paper studies the argumentation of the crisis and particularly concentrates on the most radical of these i.e. on the rhetoric of the Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Hungary has been on the frontline in the crisis, and it is striking, how politicians were strengthening critical sentiments concerning democracy and institutional dynamics of the EU. The approach compares and contextualizes arguments on three topics: us and them distinctions, conceptualisations of Europe and

features of Christianity. The paper is based on two contributions to be published in 2017: a book dealing with current Hungary and an article concentrating on the rhetoric of the migrant crisis in East Central Europe.

Pataricza, Dóra. University of Helsinki

Religiosity among Jewish women in Finland

In 2015-16 fifty interviews were made with Jewish women in Finland from various backgrounds together with Academy professor Elina Vuola within her project (Academy of Finland), entitled "Embodied religion - Changing Meanings of Body and Gender in Contemporary Forms of Religious Identity in Finland". The current paper presents some results of the above project, giving details about the religious views and backgrounds of Jewish women living in Finland. What are the ways religion is practiced these days? How are the ancestors' traditions preserved? What is the reason for a growing number of conversions among women? Similarly to all other fields of practiced religion, the religiosity of Jewish women in Finland too was and is influenced by historical circumstances, intermarriages as well as the surrounding majority society.

Portin, Fredrik. Åbo Akademi

"The barbarians will save us". Western democracy after the new visibility of religion

The sociologist and anthropologist Bruno Latour has argued that the new visibility of religion, or "hybrids", in the public sphere demands that western countries rethink and develop their basic identity, as the entry of the religious other challenges the structures that previously has maintained the public order. For example, it has become increasingly difficult to maintain the private character of religion, as the public presence of religion has, according to Latour, become impossible to counteract.

In my article, I will argue that this new situation provides an opportunity for the West to rediscover their fundamental democratic values. Because "democracy" is an essentially

contested concept, my argument will be based on the understanding of democracy that the political philosophy of Latour offers.

Rautionmaa, Heidi. University of Helsinki

Why critical interfaith education is promoting social cohesion and justice.

Informal interfaith education has its roots in interfaith movement with a progressive, activist agenda. What are its goals and its practical implementations in organized learning environments for young adults from different faiths? Interfaith education has been seen to be the potential to transform attitudes, and ultimately to promote more inclusive, cohesive and peaceful communities. Interfaith education can not just be a process of learning to live together despite of our differences and realizing the claims of community upon our lives but it should also be a process of providing the possibilities to take action for constructive social change. How to organize critical interfaith education that breaks down of hegemonic power structures through arriving deep knowledge of and respect for the other? There are some best practices of participatory models for social engagement and co operation such as service learning and working on civic projects in the community to better enable the learning with.

Ricucci, Roberta. University of Turin

Internet tools for developing an Italian Islam. New challenges for Muslim-second generations

Informal interfaith education has its roots in interfaith movement with a progressive, activist agenda. What are its goals and its practical implementations in organized learning environments for young adults from different faiths? Interfaith education has been seen to be the potential to transform attitudes, and ultimately to promote more inclusive, cohesive and peaceful communities. Interfaith education can not just be a process of learning to live together despite of our differences and realizing the claims of community upon our lives but it should also be a process of providing the possibilities to take action for constructive social change. How to organize critical interfaith education that breaks down of hegemonic power

structures through arriving deep knowledge of and respect for the other? There are some best practices of participatory models for social engagement and co operation such as service learning and working on civic projects in the community to better enable the learning with.

Simsek, Müge. Utrecht University, Utrecht

Similar or divergent paths? Religious development of Christian and Muslim adolescents in Western Europe

This paper investigates religious trends among Christian majority, Christian minority and Muslim minority youth in Western Europe during mid-adolescence. We consider changes in both public and private spheres of religiosity, namely, subjective importance of religion, service attendance and praying. In addition to comparing the changes in the mean of religiosity between groups, we also investigate the variation in religiosity within groups over time to find out to what extent there is polarization in youth' religiosity. We employ the first three waves of Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Survey in Four European Countries (CILS4EU) which were collected between 2010-2013 and include 14-15 year-old students (N=18,716), residing in 958 classes within 480 schools in England, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden. Multilevel regression models show that subjective importance of religion declines slightly over time for all groups, and this downward change is least strong among Muslims. For praying and service attendance, there is also an overall slight negative change over time yet in the case for Muslims the slight change is in the positive direction. Muslim youth maintain largest variation in praying and service attendance over time while the variation in subjective importance of religion stays largest within Christian minority youth and the smallest within Muslim youth.

Timonen, Joonas. University of Helsinki

Interminority relations in the age of super-diversity and transnationalism: Sunni-Shia dynamics between young Muslims living in Finland

This qualitative case study explores the group dynamics between young Shia and Sunni Muslims in Finland. I focus on two topics. Firstly, I examine different meanings that young

Muslims give to Sunnism and Shiism when they position themselves in relation to other Muslims. Secondly, I categorize both local and transnational processes that shape the relations between Sunnis and Shias in Finland. Based on the study, I draw three arguments concerning future policies and research in a religiously diversifying and transnationally connected Finland. First of all, the understanding of minority–minority relations becomes increasingly important for promoting social cohesion in Finland, as demographic changes lead to a more fragmented population structure. Secondly, because of the new immigration-derived transnational connections, political and social shifts in countries that previously had a minor impact on Finland, have begun to have a growing influence (such as sectarian political conflicts in the Middle East). Thirdly, acknowledging the above mentioned factors and the diversity between Muslim communities should have profound effects on the existing corporatist and hierarchical church-state politics of Finland.

Vakili, Hadi. Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies (IHCS), Teheran

NRM in EU

The role of religion in creating change in demography especially the impact of New Religious Movements (NRMs) in the EU is undoubtedly clear. In this article we try to discuss the issue of the following dimensions: at first: a more specialized study of methods of recruitment and practices within cults, to discover possible abuses and gain more information on their organizations, the resources at their disposal and in particular practices which violated social and fiscal legislation, the second, proposals for changes to federal law with a view to restraining illegal action by cults against both adults and minors and any useful recommendations, at both federal and national level, with regard to measures to draw the attention of those involved to the extent of the phenomenon, the forms it took, its dangers, the means to combat it and the care to be given to victims and their families.

Walstad Enes, Anette. Statistics Norway, Oslo

Religious affiliation and practice among immigrants in Norway

The recent Survey on Living conditions among Immigrants in Norway is one of the largest and most costly surveys ever conducted by Statistics Norway. Through face-to-face interviews with 4 400 immigrants from 12 countries, we seek information on a wide range of topics including religious affiliation and practice. We ask how important religion is in one's daily life, the frequency of practice and how easy or difficult is it to practice one's religion in Norway. The results that are to be published in May 2017, will be shown by religion, country of origin and gender. The presentation will give an outline of the results and provide valuable new insight into the role of religion in immigrants' daily lives.