

Exploratory Workshop

Habitats and Habitus: Politics and Aesthetics of Religious World-Making

ZMO, Berlin 11/12 January 2013

Convened by Kai Kresse (ZMO/Columbia)
and Birgit Meyer (UU/ZMO)

This is the first workshop organized in the framework of the Habitats and Habitus research program. One of the central concerns of this program is to develop a conceptual framework that allows to study Christianity and Islam within one field. This concern is grounded in the recognition that the plurality of the religious field – in Africa and elsewhere – in which Christians and Muslims (and practitioners of other religious traditions) coexist calls for more encompassing concepts, approaches, and methodologies.

The workshop will consist of 4 panels. In the first panel, we will critically reflect on the anthropologies of Islam and Christianity: what are the central concepts developed with regard to the study of these religious traditions? What are significant differences, what are common themes (especially regarding issues of ethics and self cultivation)? How could these respective anthropologies be synergized within a larger anthropology of religion? How useful or limiting is it to taken "religion" as a common ground? The second panel will feature researchers who are conducting research on Christians and Muslims in one framework (in Africa and elsewhere). What are the problems encountered in doing so? What are the gains and potentials? The third panel will concentrate on the future research of the two PhD students in the Habitats and Habitus project. Both will present their research projects. The aim of this panel is to give them feedback. The fourth and last panel will go deeper on issues of religious diversity in city, discussing the historical developments and social dynamics of urban space as negotiated among and between different kinds and groups of inhabitants, with a view to faith and other relevant issues.

Program

Friday, January 11th, 2013

13.00 - 15.00

Anthropology of Islam - Anthropology of Christianity: Conceptual Issues

Chair: Kai Kresse

Roman Loimeier: *The Anthropology of Islam Debate in the African Context*

Rüdiger Sesemann: *Sufism, Secrecy, and the Public Sphere in Late Colonial West Africa: Lessons for the Anthropology of Islam*

Benedikt Pontzen: *Islam in the zongo - Some Thoughts on the Ethnography of a Muslim Community in Asante (Ghana)*

Birgit Meyer: *Key Issues in the Study of Christianity in Africa and Beyond*

15.30 - 17.30

Studying Muslims and Christians: Ongoing Research

Chair: Birgit Meyer

Benjamin Soares: *Theoretical & Methodological Issues in the Study of Muslim-Christian Encounters in Africa*

Marloes Janson: *Unity Through Diversity: Chrislam in Lagos*

Martha Frederiks: *Migration and Patterns of Interreligious Relating*

Daan Beekers: *Producing Religious Habitats: An Ethnographic Comparison of Young Christians and Muslims in the Context of Dutch Secularity*

Saturday, January 12th, 2013

9.00 - 10.30

The Habitats and Habitus Project: the PHD Projects

Chair: Christoph Baumgartner

Murtala Ibrahim: *Sensation, Sights and Sound of Nigerian Religious movements: A Comparative study of Christ Embassy and Nasrul Lahi- Fathi Society (NASFAT)*

Hanna Nieber: *Scripture Practices on Zanzibar: Contextualizing the Subproject*

11.00 - 13.00

Studying Religion in the City

Chair: Ulrike Freitag

Stefan Lanz: *Global Prayers – Redemption and Liberation in the City: A Comparative Urban Research Project*

Johara Berriane: *Studying Sufism in a Moroccan City: the Case of the zâwiya of Ahmad al-Tijânî in Fez*

Peter Lambertz: *Clean(s)ing Congo Japanese style? Representational Economies of an Allochthonous Messianic Movement in Kinshasa*

Hansjörg Dilger: *Between 'Dirty Data' and the Search for Evidence: Doing Fieldwork on Christian and Muslim Schools in Dar es Salaam*