



THE POST-SECULAR (MEGA)CITY

‘Between Going Wild and Dying Out’: Interdisciplinary Inquiries of Urban Religiosity

An International Online Lecture Series, March 7 - June 20, 2022



WHAT ARE THE LECTURES ABOUT?

More than half of the world's population lives today in cities. Therefore, it is no surprise that cities – and even more so growing megacities – have been of keen interdisciplinary research interest over the last decades: architecture, sociology, cultural studies, philosophy, political science, the arts & humanities, theology, religious studies, etc. Cities are about hope, loneliness, overcrowding, violence, and (hyper)diversity (to name but a few aspects): They shape people's lives by the education, the jobs, and the cultural opportunities that are available or not. How do these various aspects interrelate creatively, critically, and even disturbingly with religion and spirituality? How does accelerated urbanization impact religious practices and theological discourses? In which ways are boundaries between the "secular" and the "sacred" being renegotiated in urban spaces? How is interreligious dialogue shaped by urban transformations? How do religious agents, communities, rituals and practices contribute to the creation, segregation and transformation of urban spaces? And what are the role and responsibilities of (public) theology, the churches and faith-based organizations in all of this? The Interdisciplinary Lectures Series interrogates these questions with regard to different urban spaces in Brazil, South Africa, the Philippines and Europe.

Photo of the Black Nazarene Festival, Manila Philippines, by Jilson Tiu.

<https://fstoppers.com/documentary/devotion-photographs-shooting-one-largest-religious-events-world-444939>



PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS // COORDINATING TEAM

- PUCPR at Curitiba: Postgraduate Program in Theology:
Prof. R.v. Sinner
- PUC Campinas: Postgraduate Program in Religious
Studies: Prof. G. Barsalini; Prof. D. Barros
- Stellenbosch University: BNC/Faculty of Theology:
Prof. D. Forster
- KU Linz: CPTL: Asst. Prof. Dr. L Kaelin
- University of Edinburgh: CTPI/School of Divinity:
Dr. U. Schmiedel
- University of Tübingen: Faculty of Catholic Theology:
Dr. S. Pittl
- Ateneo de Manila University: Dept. of Philosophy:
Prof. R. E. Barbaza

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SCHEDULE OF LECTURES (MARCH 7 – JUNE 20, 2022)

Course Work, Grading, and Credits

There will be required preparatory readings for each class. Grading and credits will be administered by the participating institutions. *The lectures are also open to those who simply want to attend without having to earn academic credits. Please contact the local coordinator in your area.*

Meetings & Class Hours

All classes will be online (Zoom). The link will be provided before the course starts. Participants have to register once to participate in all classes.

- Brazil 08.30-10.00
- UK 11.30-13.00 (07.03.-21.03.); 12:30-14:00 (28.03.-06.06.)
- Central Europe 12.30-14.00 (07.03.-21.03.); 13:30-15:00 (28.03.-06.06.)
- South Africa 13.30-15.00
- Philippines 19.30-21.00

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES (MARCH 7 – JUNE 20, 2022)

March 7, 2022
Introduction
“Urbanity and Religion: A Historical Perspective”
Prof. Jörg Rüpke, Max Weber Kolleg, Universität Erfurt (Germany)

March 14, 2022
“Religious Worlding: Christianity and the New Production of Space in the Philippines”
Prof. Jayeel Cornelio, Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines)
“Religious and Embodied Localities: The Devotion to the Black Nazarene and the Slums of Manila”
Prof. Mark Joseph T. Calano, Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines)

March 21, 2022
“Religion and the City: Between the Gods and the Beasts”
Prof. Remmon E. Barbaza, Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines)

March 28, 2022
“Cities in Crisis or Violent Churches! The Intersections between Religion and Gender-Based Violence in Nairobi's Informal Settlements in a Time of Crisis”
Prof. Damaris Seleina Parsitau, Egerton University (Kenya)

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES (MARCH 7 – JUNE 20, 2022)

April 4, 2022 **"Urban Classrooms: Exploring 'Solidarity Action Research' as Liberative Approach to City-Making"**
Prof. Stephan de Beer, University of Pretoria (South Africa)

April 11, 2022 **Intermediate Reflections**

April 25, 2022 **"Theopolitics, Migration and (Mega-)Cities: Churches as Living Infrastructures"**
Prof. Valentina Napolitano, University of Toronto (Canada)

May 2, 2022 **"Multi-Faith Spaces in the City: Urban Theology"**
Dr. Ryszard Bobrowicz, University of Lund/University of Leuven (Sweden)

"Urban Ministry: Pastoral Care in the City"
Ass.-Prof. Adela Muchova, KU Linz (Austria)

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES (MARCH 7 – JUNE 20, 2022)

May 9, 2022
“Post-secular Cities and Multi-religious Houses: A Sign of the Refiguration of Late Modern Societies?”
Prof. Martina Bär, FU Berlin (Germany)

May 16, 2022
“Architectural Offers of Supranational Identification as Strategy of Re-Enchantment? Building for the European Union in the 21st Century”
Asst. Prof. Julia Rüdiger, KU Linz (Austria)
“The Festival 7hoch2 as Experimental Platform for Renegotiating Urban Life and Civic Engagement”
Asst. Prof. Siglinde Lang, KU Linz (Austria)

May 23, 2022
“Affordable Urban Housing: A Sustainability Trilemma”
Prof. Torsten Meireis, Humboldt-Universität, Berlin (Germany)

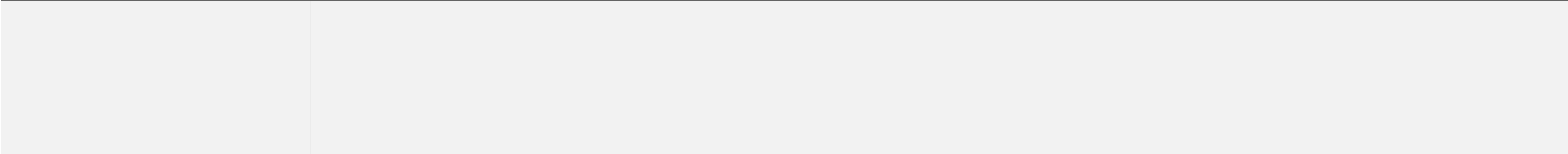
SCHEDULE OF LECTURES (MARCH 7 – JUNE 20, 2022)

May 30, 2022 “Racism and its Practice of Making Afro-Brazilian Religiosity Invisible in Itu, A Historic Brazilian city: A Study Project”
Prof. Glauco Barsalini, PUC-Campinas (Brazil)

“Geography of Violence and Religious Dispute in Brazils Cities”
Prof. Douglas Barros, PUC-Campinas (Brazil)

June 13, 2022 “Brazilian Cities and Religion: A Ubiquitous Relation”
Prof. Clovis Ultramari and Prof. Geisa Bugs
Graduate Program in Urban Management, PUCPR, Curitiba (Brazil)

June 20, 2022 **Final Reflections**



LITERATURE

- Jessica Barron and Rhys H. Williams, *The Urban Church Imagined: Religion, Race, and Authenticity in the City* (New York: NY University Press, 2017)
- Margit Eckholt, Stefan Silber (eds.), *Glauben in Mega-Citys. Transformationsprozess in lateinamerikanischen Großstädten und ihre Auswirkungen auf die Pastoral* (Ostfildern: Matthias Grünewald 2014// *Vivir la Fe en la ciudad hoy. Las grandes ciudades latinoamericanas y los actuales procesos de transformación social, cultural y religiosa*, 2 tomos, (Ciudad de México: Ediciones Paulinas, 2014)
- Arie L. Molendijk, Justin Beaumont, and Christoph Jedan (eds.), *Exploring the Postsecular: The Religious, the Political and the Urban* (Leiden – Boston: Brill 2010)
- Robert A. Orsi (ed.), *Gods of the City: Religion and the American Urban Landscape* (Bloomington IN: Indiana University Press, 1999)
- Jörg Rüpke, *Urban Religion: A Historical Approach to Urban Growth and Religious Change* (Boston – Berlin: De Gruyter 2020)
- Peter van der Veer, *Handbook of Religion and the Asian City : Aspiration and Urbanization in the Twenty-First Century* (Oakland CA: University of California Press, 2015)

GOOGLE DRIVE

Registered participants will have access to a GoogleDrive folder with reading material and recorded sessions (for internal private use only).