

**Module** Module M.IntTheol.14-05: Ethical Expertise in the Horizon of Religion

**Credits** 6 ECTS (2 WLH) Seminar.

**Workload:** Attendance time: 28 h

**Dates** 2023 (11 days in presence + 6-8 weeks online)

**Course Title**

*Who Owns Religion?*

*An interdisciplinary inquiry into the authority over spiritual life and religious teaching*

**Aim**

- To welcome the students from partner faculties without international programmes focused on religion to benefit from discussing contemporary religious challenges with their peers from all over the world.
- To connect theory and practice in the Study of Religion and Theology, by involving alumni of the Intercultural Theology master programme who will guide the group work and share their professional and academic expertise with the current students.
- To expose students of Intercultural Theology (predominantly coming from Global South) to how diverse the European contexts can be in terms of religion and culture.
- To engage students in the reflections about the ethical dimensions of researching, practising, teaching and conveying religion.

The seminar is designed with the orientation on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals - **contributing through quality education** (SDG4) and **reduced inequalities** (SDG10) and ENLIGHT flagship area **Equity**.

**Outcomes for students**

- Articulate and address critical issues of contemporary global religious processes and transformations.
- Ability to critically reflect on personal religious views and the role of the cultural context in them.
- Capacity to work effectively and respectfully across diverse theologies (incl. theologies of the Global South) and religious ethics with the representatives of other religions and denominations.
- Develop communicative strategies in situations of disagreement and resolve conflicts in multicultural settings.

## Structure

The module consists of two phases: in presence and virtual.

The course is organised around Open Lectures on the issues of authority in religion. The module includes three major thematic blocks

### 1. Who owns theology:

- Who is responsible for the production of theological knowledge
- Contextual and Intercultural Theology: the transformation of the idea of religious authority.

### 2. Who owns academic study of religion:

- “World Religions” vs. “Cults”: contemplations on the terminology and historiography of the Study of Religions.
- Authority of sources: the dominance of religious texts over objects and practices.
- Vernacular and folk religiosity as a focus of the academic Study of Religion and Folkloristics

### 3. Who owns ethics: religious rhetoric and compelling societal changes

- Current socio-political debates and agency of the religious groups
- Religious ethics and gender debates

The Lecturers will provide input and materials for the group discussion, which would be moderated by the alumni of the ICT programme.

The alumni of Intercultural Theology, who will provide inputs on the given topic from their professional and academic experience. For example

- Carla Suzana Kruger (Brazil) “Theologies and the indigenous ideas of the ownership of land”
- Blessen George Babu (India) “The Sacred Lotus: Transcending the Boundaries of Heterogeneous Cultural Identities”
- Behnaz Ghazi Moradi (Iran) “Religion in Iran through the works of the female artists”
- Elena Romashko (Belarus) “Transformations of the vernacular religion in Belarus after Chernobyl”
- Adolph van der Walt (South Africa) “Ritual smoking in South Africa: religion, ethics and public health ”
- Xinyue Zhang (China) “Eating as Intercultural Theology”
- Michael Wandusim (Ghana) “The Lord’s Prayer in the Ghanaian Context”
- Eri Yoon (South Korea) “Korean perspective on Biblical Theology”

## **List of Partner Universities**

Göttingen University (5-15 students)

University of Tartu (5-10 students)

Uppsala University (5 student)

Comenius University in Bratislava

Ghent University

Groningen University

(5-10 students)