Religion in Africa: Christianity, Islam and Neo-Traditionalism

Continuing education in African Affairs
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Religion in Africa: Christianity, Islam and Neo-Traditionalism

Since the beginning of the last century, the African landscape of religions has seen dramatic transformations. More recently, new religious movements like the broad spectrum of African Independent Churches or the current Islamic reform movements add to this religious pluriformity.

This course outlines socio-historic trajectories and the more recent tapestry of religions in Africa. The focus is on current developments such as the dynamic of prosperity teachings within the expanding Pentecostalism movement, the rise of neo-traditional priests as well as post-colonial fragmentation of Islam and its socio-political ramifications. Participants will become familiar with current debates in intra- and inter-religious perspectives. They will appreciate the significance of religious and theological key terms in the current shape of African societies and the impact of religions in African public space.

Key themes:
- African Independent Churches
- Pentecostalization of the public sphere
- Ways of being Muslim: Sufis, Reformists and new Muslim entrepreneurs
- Political Islam
- Neo-traditional movements
- Religion in society and inter-religious relations

This course is part of the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in African Affairs offered by the Centre for African Studies Basel.
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