



The Foundation for Religious Studies (FSCIRE, Italy)  
& the Tangaza University College (TUC, Kenya)



# Specialization course

2020-2021

**Course Code:** CHUS 303

**Course Title:** Contexts, Sources and Critical-Historical Methods for the Research of Religion - Seminar

**Semester/Academic Year:** 2nd Semester, 2020-2021

**Credit hours:** 2

## Coordinators :

@ Tangaza University College :

Rémi Caucanas - [rcaucanas@tangaza.ac.ke](mailto:rcaucanas@tangaza.ac.ke)

Radoslaw Malinowski - [rm@tangaza.ac.ke](mailto:rm@tangaza.ac.ke)

@ FSCIRE :

Ilaria Macconi Heckner - [ilariamacheck@bluewin.ch](mailto:ilariamacheck@bluewin.ch)

**Course description:** 14 weeks/28 hours lessons; specialization course of upper academic level; focus on methodology and research tools; interdisciplinary and comparative approach to the study of the phenomenon of Religion with focus on East Africa.

**Location:** <https://zoom.us/j/96556106896?pwd=amxBdzlxUIRxSHo0N2FyL0F0VjczQT09>

**Time frame:** Wednesdays 2:30-4:15 pm (EAT time).

**Public target:** TUC and FSCIRE students

**Objective of the Course:** This specialization course is a pilot project that should test the possibility for FSCIRE and TUC to jointly carry-out in the second part of 2021 a digital Certificate program and in the near future a Master program. It aims at offering advanced students the necessary tools and methodology to approach the study of Religion from a historical-critical perspective, focusing on the East African context and on different religious denominations (Christianity, Islam, ATR). Specific relevant subjects will be analyzed in depth and from a comparative point of view (African-European).

**Structure of the course:** The specialization course comprises five different modules dealing with a general topic. In each module specific subjects, their research methods/perspectives and sources will be discussed and analyzed. The lecturers should also present on-line research tools as well as digital archives resources available for the research of the analyzed subject.

**Course Content:**

Date	Themes/Topics	Readings & Assignments
Module1: Methodology of historical research on religion general introduction		
Week 1 06.01.2021	<i>Introduction</i> (Dr Rémi Caucanas, TUC - Dr Ilaria Macconi Heckner, FSCIRE)	
Week 2 13.01.2021	<i>Memory and history: Oral history and tradition in East African context</i> (Dr Julius Gathogo, Kenyatta University)	
Week 3 20.01.2021	<i>Decolonizing the African History of Religion: the case study of the Dictionary of African Christian Biography</i> (Prof Jesse Mugambi, University of Nairobi)	
Week 4 27.01.2021	<i>Reconstructing history of religion when written sources are missing: the case of Archaeology</i> (Prof Piotr Plisiecki, KUL - Lublin Catholic University)	
Module 2: Christian Historiography		

Week 5 03.02.2021	<i>The research of Church history and doctrine (focus on Conciliar sources). Case study: Vatican II</i> (Prof. Alberto Melloni, FSCIRE)	
Week 6 10.02.2021	<i>New Christian movements in East Africa</i> (Prof Philomena Njeri Mwaura, Kenyatta University)	
Week 7 17.02.2021	<i>Hagiography and archives in East Africa</i> (Prof Reginald Cruz, TUC)	
Special module 3 : Methodology of African Traditional Religion (ATR)		
Week 8 03.03.2021	<i>Historical studies of African Traditional Religion</i> (Prof Mary Getui, CUEA)	
Module 4: Islamic historiography		
Week 9 10.03.2021	<i>Islamic historiography: The History of Modern Tafsir.</i> (Dr. Margherita Picchi, FSCIRE)	
Week 10 17.03.2021	<i>Writing Islam history in East Africa</i> (Prof Mohammed Bakari, RAF University)	
Module 5: The historical research of Religion: sources and case studies.		

<p>Week 11</p> <p>24. 03. 2021</p>	<p><i>Mission in African Context I: Religion and Politics</i> (Dr. Joseph Mwaniki, TUC)</p>	
<p>Week 12</p> <p>31. 03. 2021</p>	<p><i>Mission in African Context II: The White Fathers and the Christian-Muslim dialogue. Research approach and sources</i> (Dr Rémi Caucanas, TUC)</p>	
<p>Week 13</p> <p>07. 04. 2021</p>	<p><i>Mission in East African Context III: Religious congregations' sources &amp; oral history</i> (Dr Ilaria Macconi Heckner, FSCIRE)</p>	
<p>Week 14</p> <p>t h i s c l a s s i s o u t s i d e t h e T a n g a z a s e m e s t e r</p>	<p><i>Medieval historical sources in Africa. The case study of Medieval Muslim - Christian relationship in Sudan, based on oriental sources</i> (Dr Radoslaw Malinowski, TUC)</p>	