

THE CHALLENGE OF IMMIGRATION FOR SMALLER COUNTRIES IN EUROPE

NORFACE Seminar series 2006-8

Principal organizer: Iseult Honohan
(University College Dublin)



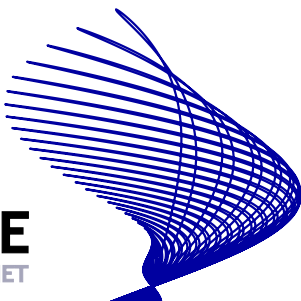
Religion, Public Culture, and the New Immigration

Thursday-Friday 24-25 April 2008

Department of Political Science, University of Aarhus

Local organizer: Per Mouritsen

NORFACE
ERA-NET



A A R H U S U N I V E R S I T E T



RELIGION AND PUBLIC CULTURE

The recent return of religion to social and political significance in Europe has been widely remarked upon. Societies that have viewed themselves as secular and tolerant have been confronted with new issues of freedom of expression and political calls to respect religious practice and belief. Also, the new immigration has meant that societies where religious homogeneity – and cultural homogeneity more generally – was previously taken for granted have been faced with increasing diversity. These developments raise a number of serious questions which have to be addressed empirically and theoretically by researchers, employing comparative perspectives.

First there are questions about the role that religious arguments and discourse may play in political life. What is the relationship between religion and various theoretical conceptions of public reason?

Secondly, important questions concern the way that the religious practices of immigrants fit into existing patterns of religious belief and practice, including patterns and institutional norms of established religiosity, and to what extent there are significant differences in this among countries if we look beyond the standard ‘models’ such as France and Britain.

Thirdly, to what extent can we identify distinctive models of responding to religious difference (e.g. secularist, pluralist, confessional) in the smaller countries of Europe? To what extent and how can minority religions be accommodated, i.e., rather than merely tolerated? How was religious diversity accommodated politically and institutionally in the past, and how could it be accommodated in the future? What can be learned, in this regard, by looking at the normative and political disputes over various Muslim religious practices – disputes which exhibit similarities as well as diversities across the political cultures of Europe?

Finally, how does, and how should, religion relate to the public culture of countries? How does the specific parameter of religion, in an otherwise increasingly disenchanted Western world, factor into the double debate on, first, the requirement of some sort of common culture, national identity, or homogeneity, and secondly, the requirement that immigrants confirm and conform to given ideals of good citizenship? Does religious heterogeneity jeopardize trust and the welfare state, as some would have it? Is the problem (strong) religion as such, or the fact that a national political culture depends on a particular ‘banal’ religious perspective or a more strenuous secularism? Should these questions be answered differently in relation to more or less secular societies – or between societies which conceptualize their ideology of secularism in different ways, in part reflecting different traditions of reformation, church-state relations, and dominant creeds? In particular, are there differences between catholic and protestant countries in this regard?

This seminar will consider issues of religion, public space and public culture that arise in the context of immigration, addressing these normatively and comparatively, with special reference to the ways in which these arise in the context of new immigration in the smaller countries of Europe.

About the NORFACE seminar series

This is the final meeting in a series of four two-day interdisciplinary seminars, focusing on the theme 'Challenges of Immigration for Smaller Countries of Europe'. The aim is to bring together researchers from seven partner countries (Ireland, Portugal, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, and Germany), to study these challenges from a comparative perspective, and to promote the pursuit and dissemination of such research. The research facilitated by this series is interdisciplinary, involving historical, legal, political science, normative political theory, sociological, and philosophical perspectives. In developing the comparative study of immigration, the seminars draw speakers from the network members as well as from invited national and international experts on immigration. The first three meetings were held in Dublin (December 2006), Braga (June 2007), and Maastricht (November 2007). The seminar series is sponsored by the NORFACE partnership between twelve research councils to increase co-operation in research and research policy in Europe. NORFACE receives core funding from the European Commission's Sixth Framework Programme, under the ERANET scheme.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Wednesday 23 April

Arrival of participants

19.00

NORFACE network partner's meeting:

Future research collaborations and funding
(Downtown venue)

Thursday 24 April

Chair morning: Per Mouritsen

09.00 – 09.30

Registration, coffee, tea & rolls

- 09.30 – 09.45 **Welcome**
Per Mouritsen (Local organizer)
- 09.45 – 12.15 **Religion in politics and public life**

Religion in the Public Sphere: Towards a New Paradigm
Camil Ungureanu, University College Dublin

Secularism and the securitisation of Islam - tbc
Ole Wæver, University of Copenhagen
- 12.15 – 13.30 **Lunch (next to seminar room)**

Chair (afternoon): Sune Lægaard (Copenhagen)
- 13.30 – 15.30 **Muslim religious practices in liberal democracies**

The Islamic Headscarf: a political tool in the battle over multiculturalism
Sawitri Saharso, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

Mirror of Identity: The Islamic Headscarf in Western Europe
Christian Joppke, American University of Paris
- 15.30 – 15.45 **Coffee, tea & fruit**
- 15.45 – 18.15 **Panel: Muslims as a religious minority in Europe: National identity and religious freedom/equality**

*Muslims and the wider society:
Comparing Finland and Ireland*
Tuula Sakaranaho, University of Helsinki

*The reflective logic of Multiculturalism:
Muslims and national identity building in Spain*
Ricard Zapata-Barrero, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

Political Imams and the failed incorporation of Danish Muslims
Lene Kühle, University of Aarhus
- 18.30 – **Reception and buffet hosted by the Department of Political Science**

Friday 25 April

Chair (morning): Søren Flinch Midtgaard (Aarhus)

9.00 – 11.30 **Priority for Liberal Democracy or Secularism?
Why I am Not a Secularist**

Veit Bader, Universiteit van Amsterdam

Coffee, tea & rolls

Possible extra paper to be announced

11.45 – 13.45 **The Danish case in Scandinavian perspective**

*Diversity, Cohesion, and Public Debates: Denmark's
Migration Regime in Transition?*

Ulf Hedetoft, University of Copenhagen

*Varieties in the Scandinavian welfare-assimilation-
integration regimes*

Yngve Lithman, University of Bergen

13.45 – 14.45 **Lunch**

Chair (afternoon): Tore Vincents Olsen (Copenhagen)

14.45 – 17.15 **Public culture, religion and social cohesion**

Leitkultur, integration and the civic turn

Per Mouritsen, University of Aarhus

Coffee, tea & fruit

On the Demos and its Kin:

Nationalisms and Democratic Legitimation

Arash Abizadeh, McGill University

17.15 – 18.30 **The Sound of Citizenship – Western Citizenship
Ceremonies in Comparative Ethnographic Perspective**

Tine Damsholt, University of Copenhagen

19.00 – **Conference dinner at Nordisk Spisehus**

M.P. Bruunsgade 31

<http://www.nordiskspisehus.dk/>

REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE

A limited number of additional places are available for those who are interested in attending the seminar and early booking is advised.

Registration fees:

Conference attendance	€ 50
Conference and dinner	€ 130

Please approach for purposes of registration, by e-mail or telephone:

Conference secretary

Julie From

E-mail: juliefrom@hotmail.com

Telephone: +45 2226 4243

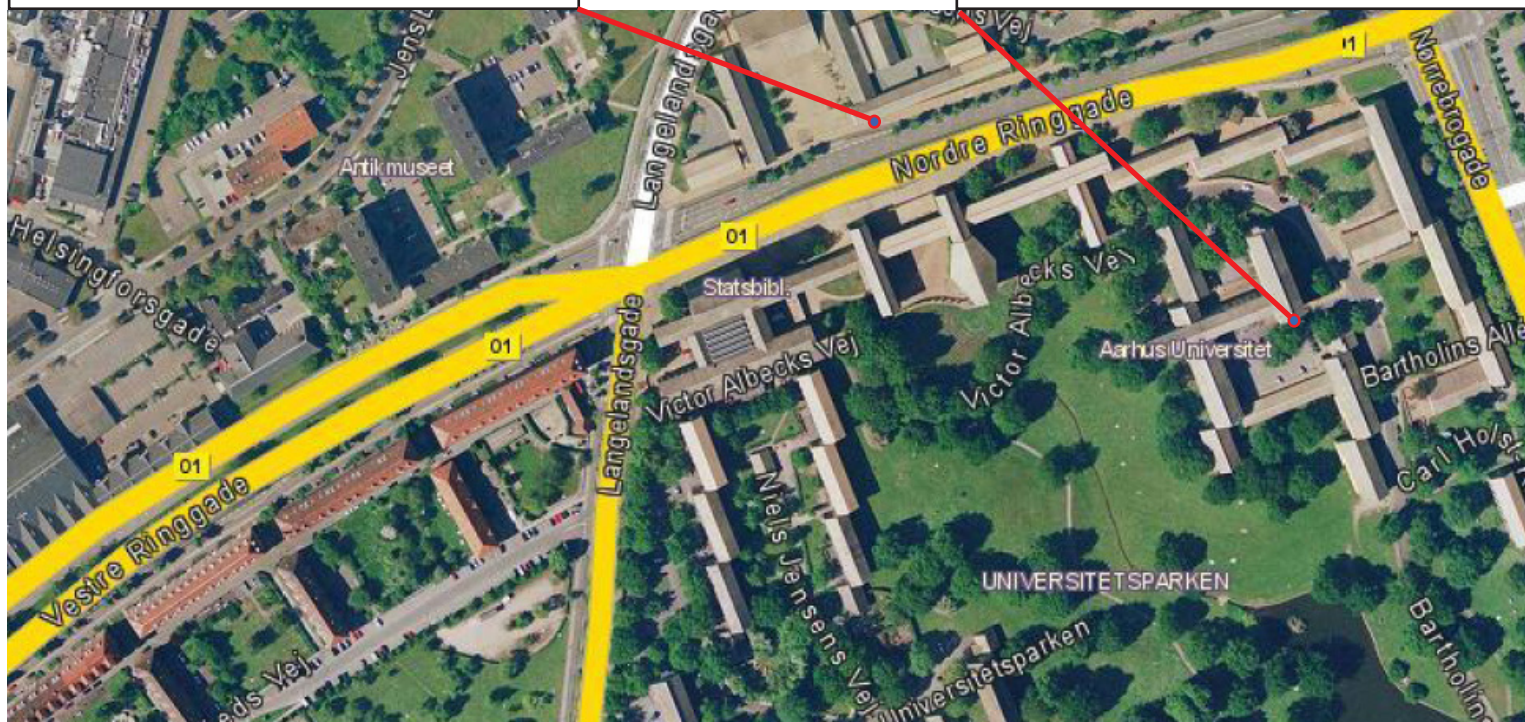
Draft papers/abstracts will be made available to all registered participants before the seminar commences. They will also be placed on a conference website at: www.norfaceaarhus2008.dk which will be launched in March.

CONFERENCE VENUE:

Preben Hornung Stuen
Studenternes Hus
University of Aarhus
Nordre Ringgade 3
8000 Århus C

THURSDAY RECEPTION:

Stærekassen
Department of Political Science
University of Aarhus
Bartholins Allé, Bygning 1350
8000 Århus C



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Arash Abizadeh
Department of Political Science
McGill University

Veit Bader
Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies
Universiteit van Amsterdam

Jørgen Carling
International Peace Research Institute
Oslo

Tine Damsholt
Department of Ethnology
University of Copenhagen

Isabel Estrada
International Relations and Public Administration
University of Minho

Ulf Hedetoft
Academy for Migration Studies in Denmark
University of Copenhagen

Iseult Honohan
School of Politics & International Relations
University College Dublin

Christian Joppke
Graduate School of Government
American University of Paris

Dora Kostakopoulou
School of Law
University of Manchester

Lene Kühle
Department of the Study of Religion
University of Aarhus

Kasper Lippert-Rasmussen
Department of Political Science
University of Aarhus

Yngve Lithman
Centre for Development Studies
University of Bergen

Sune Lægaard
Department of Media, Cognition and Communi-
cation
University of Copenhagen

Søren Flinch Midtgaard
Department of Political Science
University of Aarhus

Per Mouritsen
Department of Political Science
University of Aarhus

Tore Vincents Olsen
International Center for Business and Politics
Copenhagen Business School

Sawitri Saharso
Department of Sociology
Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

Tuula Sakaranaho
Department of Comparative Religion
University of Helsinki

Camil Ungureanu
School of Politics & International Relations
University College Dublin

Ole Wæver
Department of Political Science
University of Copenhagen

Ricard Zapata-Barrero
Political and Social Science Department
Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona