



University
of Basel

Centre for
African Studies

Political Religion: Tradition, Reform, Fundamentalism

Continuing education in African Affairs
8-9 November 2019



Photo: Maouloud Celebration in Bamako (A. Chappatte, 2010)



ADVANCED STUDIES

Political Religion: Tradition, Reform, Fundamentalism

Date & time

8 November 2019, 9pm-5pm

9 November 2019, 9am-5pm

Faculty

André Chappatte, Head of Research Unit
at the Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient
(ZMO), Berlin

Andreas Heuser, Professor for Non-
European Christianity at the Faculty of
Theology, University of Basel

Elísio Macamo, Professor for Sociology
and African Studies at the Department of
Social Sciences, University of Basel

Language

English

Credits/degree

The course is awarded with 1 ECTS
credit for the CAS in African Affairs
(assessment required).

Course fee

CHF 690 incl. course documentation;
travel expenses, accommodation and
meals are not included.

*Additional fee for assessment
(required for ECTS credits): CHF 60*

Registration deadline

19 October 2019

Contact

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Since the turn of the 21st century, African societies have experienced a so-called ‘religious revival’ of political nature. New religious movements like the broad spectrum of African Independent Churches or anti-Sufi Islamic reform movements play a prominent role in African public spheres. Western mainstream media and experts often describe what we call “political religion” in Africa as fundamentalist, hence a threat to democratic and liberal order.

This course challenges prevalent explanations of religious activism in Africa. Participants will be introduced to concepts of political religion and their application to African contexts in order to develop a more nuanced, historized and actors-centered understanding of current transformations. They will engage with case studies of expanding Pentecostalism, the rise of neo-traditional priests, increasing civic engagement of Muslim associations and Muslims’ search for modern aspirations.

Key themes:

- Concepts of political religion
- Pentecostalization of the public sphere
- Neo-traditional movements
- Tradition and Reform in Islam
- Aspirations of political Muslims
- 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.
www.zasb.unibas.ch/en/cas