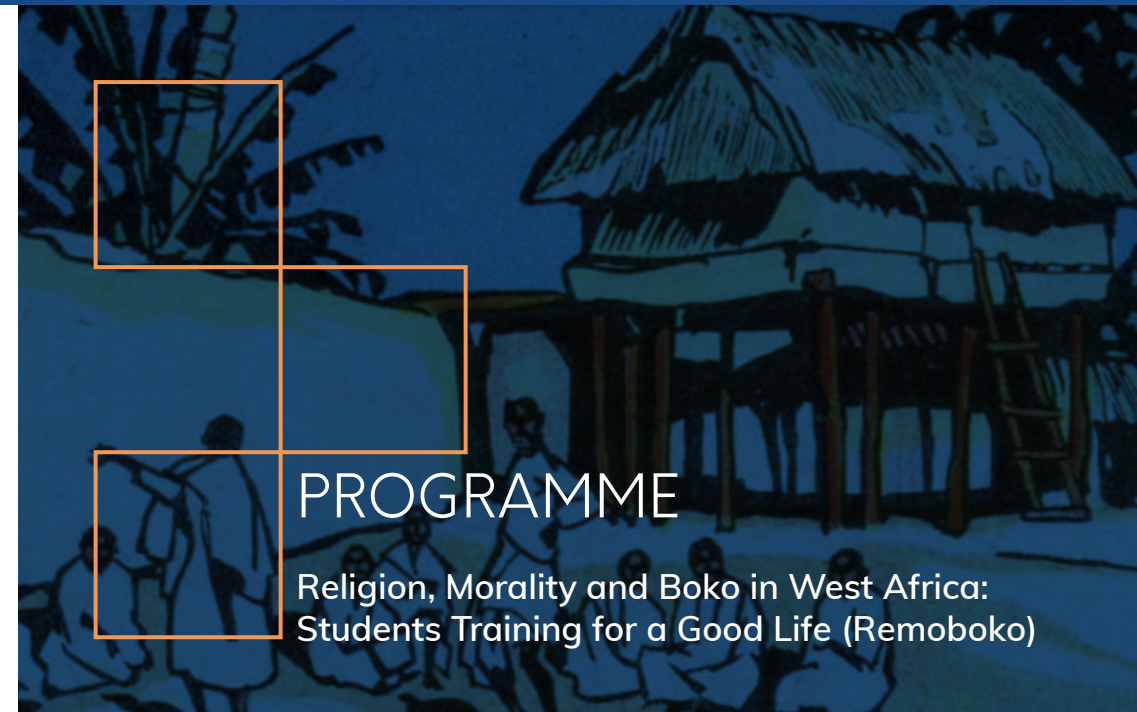


Concept Note

Religious diversity is a feature of contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa and the outcome of many dynamic socio-historical processes. Over the past centuries, Christianity and Islam in particular, claimed a significant influence on social, political and even economic interactions across the continent. While trade, missions, migrations, and demographic growth imposed new forms of religious cohabitation, being religious and displaying it has become prevalent in many parts of the continent. This has affected the status of religiosity in private and public domains, has shaped modes of belonging, power relations, and ultimately how people interact, especially in multi-religious settings.

Organised by the Remoboko research group, this workshop focuses on conversion and power/authority in religious interactions, and aims to offer insights into (re)conversion (as a social and spiritual process) and power/authority (emanating from individuals, religious leaders or institutions) on university campuses. Prioritising a comparative approach, it seeks to bring together various analytical and methodological approaches and disciplinary perspectives to examine the dynamic of conversion and construction of authority in higher educational institutions.

Students' social background, gender, religious belonging, academic status (undergraduate, postgraduate, doctor, professor...) are conceptual lenses that could be used to frame contributions. We acknowledge that power is relational and multidimensional; hence we include alternative concepts such as authority, agency, domination, and influence, which may help understand conversion in relation to authority in social interactions and religious experiences. What drives conversion at the individual or the group level? To what extent does conversion occur through personal choice, external persuasion or coercion? How authoritative are the power structures — scriptures, theologies and interpretations — that religion produces in the processes of (re)conversion? What narratives are mobilised to establish authority, and build outreach strategies? How are identities and belonging re-configured? What boundaries emerge and are challenged in this process? What power relations ensue? How does (re)conversion shape religious interactions and experience on campus? These are some of the issues we would like to engage. Therefore, we welcome contributions that rely on detailed empirical case studies in higher education contexts.



PROGRAMME

Religion, Morality and Boko in West Africa:
Students Training for a Good Life (Remoboko)

**Religion in higher educational institutions in Africa and beyond:
(Re)Conversion, Power, and Authority from a comparative perspective.**

Remoboko Workshop, 16 & 17 November 2021
Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
14129 Berlin

Contact: Abdoulaye.Sounaye@zmo.de

Registration: Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/579cfebv>

For on-site participation: Anna Schenkenberger, praktikant2@zmo.de

First Day, 16 November 2021

08:30 – 16:25

08:30 – 09:00

Welcome:

Welcoming of the participants and coffee/tea

09:00 – 09:15

Welcome:

Introduction (Abdoulaye Sounaye, ZMO; Adéjoké Rafiat Adétòrò, University of Ibadan/ZMO; Bello Adamou Mahamadou, Université Abdou Moumouni/ZMO; Vincent Favier, Freie Universität Berlin/ZMO)

Panel I:

Religiosity, identity and the dynamics of conversion in educational institutions / Religiosité, identité et les dynamiques de la conversion dans les établissements d'enseignement

Chair: Ahmadou Hamage Issa (Université Abdou Moumouni)

Discussant: Gerd Spittler (University of Bayreuth)

09:15 – 09:55

Panel I:

Étude comparative de la transformation identitaire des étudiants à travers la conversion religieuse (Bello Adamou Mahamadou, Université Abdou Moumouni/ZMO)

09:55 – 10:35

Panel I:

Colonial Education and Conversion Disaster in Kunle Afolayan's October 1 (Olubunmi Olowookere, University of Ibadan)

10:35 – 10:50

Coffee Break

10:50 – 11:30

Panel I:

Conversion religieuse des étudiants sur les campus universitaires de Point G et de Badalabougou à Bamako (Mali): entre affirmation identitaire et persuasion (Sekou Sala Timbely, Université Abdou Moumouni)

11:30 – 12:10

Panel I:

Pray for us: Passive culture of Muslim conversion to Christianity amongst residents of Obafemi Awolowo Hall, University of Ibadan (June Temitope Gbadamosi, University of Ibadan)

12:10 – 13:10

Lunch Break

Panel II:

Missionaries and educational institutions: the issue of authority / Missionnaires et établissements d'enseignement : la question de l'autorité

Chair: Ibrahim Bachir Abdoulaye (University of Bayreuth)

Discussant: Dorothea E. Schulz (University of Münster)

13:10 – 13:50

Panel II:

Transnational Authority, Kuwaiti Islamic Charitable Institutions, and Higher Education in East Africa (Mara Leichtman, Michigan State University)

13:50 – 14:30

Panel II:

Abdicating Islam for Quality Education? Experiences of Muslim Students at Wesley Girls' Senior High School (Ameen Kasim, Islamic University College, Ghana)

14:30 – 15:10

Panel II:

L'émergence des universités confessionnelles en Afrique: De la gestion du fait religieux aux rivalités confessionnelles (Guy Bucumi, Université de Sherbrooke)

15:10 – 15:25

Coffee Break

15:25 – 16:25

Keynote I:

Reforming higher educational institutions in Africa: beyond religion and beyond secularism (Mbaye Lo, Duke University)

Second Day, 17 November 2021

10:00 – 18:30

10:00 – 11:00

Keynote II:

Becoming small 'big men' of God: Pastorship, spirituality and joining power in Ghana (Karen Lauterbach, University of Copenhagen)

11:00 – 11:15

Coffee Break

Panel III:

Religious diversity and cohabitation on university campuses / Diversité religieuse et cohabitation sur les campus universitaires

Chair: Seyni Mamoudou Ibrahim (University of Bayreuth)

Discussant: Élodie Apard (LAM)

11:15 – 11:55

Panel III:

Comparison as a mode of knowledge production in academic contexts: interpreting history through the lens of religious narratives (Vincent Favier, ZMO)

11:55 – 12:35

Panel III:

One University, Two Faiths: The Nature and Dynamics of Muslim-Christian Relations in Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria, 1977-2019 (Nadir Abdulhadi Nasidi, Ahmadu Bello University)

12:35 – 13:15

Panel III:

Vivre sa foi Tabligh au sein des campus universitaires de Côte d'Ivoire: Ethnographie du cheminement de la religiosité des étudiants (Youssoufou Bakayoko, Université Alassane Ouattara)

13:15 – 14:05

Lunch Break

Panel IV:

Controlling the campus: rise and power of socio-religious groups/ Contrôler le campus: montée et pouvoir des groupes socio-religieux

Chair: Hamissou Rhissa Achaffert (University of Bayreuth)

Discussants: Frédérick Madore (ZMO), Benedikt Pontzen (ZMO)

14:05 – 14:45

Panel IV:

Power Politics and Othering in religious communities at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria (Adéjoké Rafiat Adetoro, University of Ibadan/ZMO)

14:45 – 15:25

Panel IV:

Occupation de l'espace du campus universitaire : dynamiques, enjeux et construction de l'autorité de l'AEMN/UAM (Abdoulbaki Djibo, Université Abdou Moumouni)

15:25 – 15:40

Coffee Break

15:40 – 16:20

Panel IV:

Pentecostalism on campus in Zimbabwe (Simbarashe Gukurume, Sol Plaatje University)

16:20 – 17:00

Panel IV:

Religion, jeux de pouvoir et d'influence au sein du campus universitaire de Dakar (Mamadou Yéro Baldé, Université Cheikh Anta Diop)

Concluding Remarks / Conclusion

17:00 – 17:30

Abdoulaye Sounaye (ZMO) & Frédérick Madore (ZMO)

18:30

Dinner at Mr. Hai (Savignyplatz 1, 10623 Berlin)