EUROPEAN
SCIENCE
FOUNDATION

RECODE

RECODE – Responding to Complex Diversity in Europe and Canada

-WORKSHOP 5-

MULTIRELIGIOUS SOCIETY
ACCOMODATING NEW RELIGIOUS DIVERSITIES IN POST-SECULAR SETTINGS

11-12 April, 2013
Centre for Human and Social Sciences
(Spanish National Research Council, CSIC)
C/ Albasanz, 26-28
E-28037 Madrid. Spain

Convenors
Francisco Colom González (CSIC, Spain)
Gianni D'Amato (Univ. of Neuchâtel, Switzerland)

The aim of this Section of the RECODE Research Networking Program is to explore the changing relationship between the religious and political spheres in democratic societies. Whereas modernisation has been traditionally conceived as an irrevocable substitution of traditional religious values by secular principles, the fact is that we are facing a profound change in the functional parameters of religion. For centuries, religion was the main instrument of socialization in traditional agrarian societies. Their symbolic universe was shaped by religious references, as were their collective allegiances and their perception of social order and political legitimacy. In modern societies it is the state which exercises, even if in a receding way, this type of cultural hegemony. Religion has historically unbound itself from the normative function of legitimating state authority, but the emergence of new forms of religious diversity continues to demand specific policies from the state. Religion thus has lost its role as a primordial social reference, but it has not given way to completely secularized forms of subjectification. It still counts as a relevant social force that pervades the public, private and personal realms, and it often puts pressure on the role of the state as a neutral public actor. This is what we have defined here as *post-secular* settings.

In a former seminar (Neuchâtel, October 2011) RECODE reviewed the narratives of secularization and the different types of religious governance in Europe and Canada. In this workshop we will address the social practices, public policies and normative issues involved in the accommodation of the new emerging forms of religious diversity. Special attention will be paid to the management of multiconfessional social spaces. Social spaces are here conceived as physical or symbolic realms where human relations develop, like gathering places, travel routes, and social institutions. In the first panel we will deal with the accommodation of religion in contemporary urban settings, with the configuration of religious itineraries related to pilgrimage or tourism and with the adaptation of medical, penitentiary and funerary practices to multi-religious conditions. In the second panel we will look at the theoretical and practical implications of the claims for legal autonomy made by certain religious groups. In the

last panel we will turn to the dilemmas stemming from the participation of organized religious groups in processes of conflict resolution and in the making of public policy.

Program

April 11th, First Session

9:30 - Opening
9:45 – Panel 1 - *Out in public: religion and the use of social spaces*
Christof Meier (Integrationsförderung, City of Zürich; Switzerland)
Michael Stausberg (Bergen University, Norway)
Francisco Díez de Velasco (University of La Laguna, Spain)

11:00 – Coffee-break

11:30 – Panel 1 (continuation)
Ronald George Moore (University College Dublin, Ireland)
María del Mar Griera (Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain)

Discussant: Valeriano Esteban (National University of Distance Education, Spain)

14:00 – Lunch at the Centre for Human and Social Sciences

15:30 - *Panel 2- One law for all? The legal self-regulation of religious groups*
Marie-Claire Foblets (Max Plank Institute of Social Anthropology, Germany)
Bertram Turner (Max Plank Institute of Social Anthropology, Germany)
Francisco Colom González (National Research Council, Spain)

17:00 – Coffee-break

17:15 – Panel 2 (continuation)
Gianni D'Amato (University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland)

Discussant: José María Sauca (Carlos III University, Spain)

18:00 – End of the First Session

21:00 – Supper in Madrid Downtown

April 12th, Second Session

9:30 - Panel 3- *Public policy for religious co-existence*
Veit Bader (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)
Paul Bramadat (University of Victoria, Canada)
Avigail Eisenberg (University of Victoria, Canada)

11:00 – Coffee-break

11:30 - Panel 3 (continuation)
Discussant: João Manuel Cardoso Rosas (University of Minho, Portugal)

13:30 – Closing of the Seminar

14:30 – Lunch in Madrid Downtown

With the co-sponsorship of the **Fundación Canadá**