

A photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a facade of perforated metal panels. The building is illuminated by warm, golden light, likely from the setting or rising sun, creating a strong contrast with the sky. The sky is a pale, hazy blue with some light clouds. The building's facade features a grid of small, triangular openings, some of which are larger and more prominent than others, creating a textured, patterned appearance.

**DIGNIFIED SPACES IN A PLURAL EUROPE
ON THE (IN)VISIBILITY OF CULTURAL AND
RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN
POST-INDUSTRIAL CITIES**

DIGNIFIED SPACES IN A PLURAL EUROPE ON THE (IN)VISIBILITY OF CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN POST-INDUSTRIAL CITIES

UNIC Seminar

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cultural and religious communities, and particularly minorities, can only live with dignity if they have a “space.” To literally make space for people is a prerequisite for living together in our diverse urban centers. If dignity includes the possibility of self-determined action, these spaces must be designable and usable in a self-determined way.

This class focuses on politically, socially, and spatially marginalized communities in the urban centers of the UNIC universities and their access to dignified spaces. Of particular interest are cultural and religious communities that come to Europe through migration and international linkages and that need specific places and spaces that serve as meeting places to preserve cultural and religious identity. While the traditional church buildings in the inner cities are often used less and less for religious purposes, migrant communities only find space in the periphery of the cities – in former factory halls or as ‘subtenants’ in other church buildings.

This seminar aims to capture and make visible different perspectives on space and dignity of cultural or religious communities in diverse European cities. Students will locate and visit religious and cultural minorities in their respective hometowns. They will talk to people, take pictures, or record audio-visual data. In case of pandemic restrictions, they will reach these communities online. As such, the communities will be offered spaces to talk about their search for the space that enables them to live with dignity in their (new) neighborhoods. We aim to compare the situation in four cities (Cork, Rotterdam, Bochum, and Istanbul) and thus expand our analytical horizons of spaces of dignity.

At Ruhr-Universität Bochum, this class is open to all students in religious studies, and broadly related study programs, as well as the *Optionalbereich*. Please **sign up for this class** on eCampus and via e-mail to martin.radermacher@rub.de before **January 15th, 2022**.

LECTURERS

This class is a co-teaching seminar organized by:

- Katharina Bauer (Erasmus University Rotterdam)
- James Kapalo (University College Cork)
- Nazli Ozkan & İpek Rappas (Koç University, İstanbul)
- Martin Radermacher (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

DATES & TIMES

This online class starts on **February 14th, 2022**, and ends on **April 11th, 2022**. It takes place via Zoom for sessions of ca. 60 min at **3 p.m.** on Mondays and Wednesdays.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Session 1 (Feb 14th, 2022): **INTRODUCTION** (Martin Radermacher) & **DIGNITY I** (Katharina Bauer)

Session 2 (Feb 16th, 2022): **DIGNITY II** (Katharina Bauer)

Readings:

Düwell, M. (2014). Human Dignity. Concepts, Discussions, Philosophical Perspectives. In M. Düwell, J. Braarvig, R. Brownsword, and D. Mieth (eds.): *The Cambridge Handbook of Human Dignity: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 23–50.

Neuhäuser, C., and Stoecker, R. (2014). Human Dignity as Universal Nobility. In M. Düwell, J. Braarvig, R. Brownsword, & D. Mieth (eds.): *The Cambridge Handbook of Human Dignity: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 298–309.

Session 3 (Feb 21st, 2022): **RELIGION, SPACE, AND DIGNITY I** (Martin Radermacher)

Readings:

Burchardt, Marian; Höhne, Stefan (2015): The Infrastructures of Diversity. Materiality and Culture in Urban Space. In *New Diversities* 17 (2), 1–13.

Barrie, Thomas; Bermudez, Julio (2019): Spirituality and Architecture. In László Zsolnai, Bernadette Flanagan (eds.): *The Routledge International Handbook of Spirituality in Society and the Professions*. Abingdon: Routledge, 345–355.

Session 4 (Feb 23rd, 2022): **RELIGION, SPACE, AND DIGNITY II** (Martin Radermacher)

Session 5 (Feb 28th, 2022): **METHODS INTRODUCTION I** (Nazli Ozkan)

Readings:

Agrosino, Michael (2007). *Doing Ethnographic and Observational Research*. London: Sage.

Chapter 3, Selecting a field site, 28–35.

Chapter 4, Data collection in the field, 35–53.

Chapter 8, Ethical Considerations, 84–91.

Session 6 (Mar 2nd, 2022): **METHODS INTRODUCTION II** (Nazli Ozkan)

Readings:

Agrosino, Michael (2007). *Doing Ethnographic and Observational Research*. London: Sage.

Chapter 6, Analyzing ethnographic data, 67–77.

Chapter 7, Strategies for representing ethnographic data, 77–84.

Abiding, Crystal (2020). Somewhere between here and there: Negotiating researcher visibility in a digital ethnography of the influencer industry. In *Journal of Digital Social Research*, 2 (1), 56–76.

Session 7 (Mar 7th, 2022): **RELIGIOUS MIGRATION AND MATERIALITY I**
(James Kapalo)

Readings:

Chidester, David (2018): Space. In *Religion: Material Dynamics*. Oakland, California: University of California Press, 36–46.
Tweed, Thomas A. (2011). Space. In *Material Religion*. 7 (1), 116–123.

Session 8 (Mar 9th, 2022): **RELIGIOUS MIGRATION AND MATERIALITY II**
(James Kapalo)

Readings:

Morgan, David (2021): How Materiality Matters to the Study of Religion. In *The Thing about Religion*. University of North Carolina Press, 1–24.
Dodsworth, Francis, Elena Vacchelli, Sophie Watson (2015): City. In *Key Terms in Material Religion*. London and New York: Bloomsbury, 41–47.

Session 9 (Mar 14th, 2022): **MIGRATION, MINORITIES, TOLERANCE I** (İpek Rappas)

Readings:

Mahir Şaul (2014), “A Different ‘Kargo.’ Sub-Saharan Migrants in Istanbul and African Commerce,” *Urban Anthropology and Studies of Cultural Systems and World Economic Development*, 43 (1/2/3), 143–203.
Johara Berriane (2020), “Religion in Spaces of Transit. African Christian Migrant Churches and Transnational Mobility in Morocco,” *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 41 (4), 424–441.

Session 10 (Mar 16th, 2022): **MIGRATION, MINORITIES, TOLERANCE II** (İpek Rappas)

Thematic input & discussion (possibly visit to a church attended by migrants)

Sessions 11–14 (week 6 & 7): **STUDENT FIELD WORK**

Session 15 (Apr 4th, 2022): **DISCUSSION I**

Session 16 (Apr 6th, 2022): **DISCUSSION II**

Discussing results and possibility of preparing collaborative products (virtual exhibition, short video, web-page, presentations for the EASR conference etc.)

Session 17 (April 11th, 2022): **CONCLUSION (ALL)**

Final presentation of student fieldwork

ASSIGNMENTS

- **Assignment 1** (20%): Students prepare a work program for their own fieldwork, including ethical integrity, methods (online or on-site), an interview guide, etc. Submission deadline: **March 11th, 2022**.
- **Assignment 2** (20%): Presentation of preliminary results from student field work (“online field work,” if necessary). Presentations on **April 4th and 6th, 2022**.
- **Assignment 3** (60%): Final paper or audio-visual/digital product (for graded students). Submission deadline: **April 30, 2022**.

The **EASR conference** in Cork 2022 (June 27th to July 1st) could be another venue to present the results of the student projects. Our participation in this conference as a group, sponsored by Erasmus, will be decided over the course of the seminar.

Further information about UNIC at RUB: <https://uni.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/de/unic>

CONTACT

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