Researcher Training Course

RELIGION, CONFLICT AND IDENTITY IN SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA (7.5 – 15 ECTS)

Course description: Religion continues to play a vital role in the social, cultural and political developments in South and South East Asia. This course will provide the students with overviews of the broader religious developments in South and South East Asia, as well as with in-depth analyses of three cases where religious affiliation has served as important identity markers and sources of conflict: (1) nationalist politics in the regions, (2) nationalist politics among diaspora populations, and (3) gender, nationalism and multiculturalism. The lectures will introduce developmental, structural, post-structural, postcolonial and feminist perspectives on politicised religion, globalisation, conflict and identity. The discussions will focus on how groups, communities and nations use religious traditions in multiple ways, for instance, as means of expression, gaining recognition, channelling resources, legitimising conflicts, and as sources for identity. Seminars will allow the students to actively participate in analysing empirical data. Apart from training the students’ analytical and methodological skills, the course will provide an understanding of religious expressions in their local and social contexts, and religious identities as part of broader trans-national and global processes.

Time frame: October 2, 2006 – October 13, 2006 (7.5 ETCS), and October 24 - 27 (7.5 ETCS).

Structure: The course will start with an intensive series of lectures in which the course leaders and invited specialists give a number of key lectures on the theme of the course concluded by joint discussions in seminars. The students will then work on papers related to the course topic. The course will end with a two-day work shop (October 26 - 27). Specialists in various fields will be invited to participate in the discussion and examination of student papers. The intention of the course is that both the final exam and the papers should reflect topics related to the students’ PhD theses. Some student papers may be selected for publication in an edited volume.

Final exam: Students who participate in all lectures/seminars and make a satisfactory seminar presentation on Friday, October 13 will have passed the first half of the course (7.5 ETCS). Students who write a satisfactory final paper and attend the paper workshop on October 26 – 27 will have passed the second half of the course (7.5 ETCS). The paper should consist of around 4-5000 words in total. The final grade will be based on active participation in seminars and the final paper.

Course venue: The lectures will be held at Dept. Political Science, Lund University, and the final paper workshop at NIAS, Leifsgade 33, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Course leaders: Prof. Catarina Kinnvall, Department of Political Science, Lund University (Catarina.Kinnvall@svet.lu.se), Dr. Sidsel Hansson, Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, (Sidsel.Hansson@ace.lu.se)
Course Outline:

**Week 40: Religious and Nationalist Politics in South and South East Asia**

Tuesday, October 3, 10-12 am: **Religious and Nationalist Politics in South and South East Asia: Introduction.** Teachers: Hansson/Kinnvall
The first meeting will consist of an introductory lecture where we introduce the course, the literature and outline the main issues. In comparison to the rest of the course, this meeting will not consist of a seminar but is purely to introduce the teachers and the students to each other and to clarify the aim, requirements and the expectations of the course. In addition the students will get acquainted with the main topics of the course. Empirically we will introduce the issue of how religious affiliation has served as important identity markers and sources of conflict in the three cases dealt with in the course. Theoretically we intend to introduce developmental, structural, post-structural, postcolonial and feminist perspectives on politicised religion, globalisation, conflict and identity.

Tuesday, October 3, 1-4 pm: **Religion and Identity Conflict in a Postcolonial Context.**
Teacher: Catarina Kinnvall
This meeting will consist of an introductory lecture, followed by seminar presentations and discussion. We will explore the relationship between religion, identity and security and discuss how religious identification and religious nationalism work to legitimate conflict and the construction of self and other.

Wednesday, October 4, 10-12: **Guest lecture: Kivimäki/NIAS**

Wednesday, October 4, 1-4 pm: **Religion, Nationalism and History Writing.**
Teacher: Catarina Kinnvall
This meeting will consist of an introductory lecture, followed by seminar presentations and discussion. The focus will be on how history is interpreted, constructed, mythologized and often romanticized to fit in with existing dominant religious and nationalist discourses and how such discourses are being acted upon and sometimes challenged. The aim is to empirically and theoretically analyze the relationship between religion, nationalism, history (re)writing and conflict. In particular we will discuss the use of history in a number of current conflicts in South and Southeast Asia.

Thursday, October 5, 9-12 am: **Terror: Genesis and End.**
Teacher: Toft Madsen

Thursday, October 5, 1-4 pm: **Guest lecture: Uhlin, LU**

Friday, October 6, 9-12 am: **Globalization, Postcolonialism, Migration and Diaspora Politics.** Teacher: Catarina Kinnvall
This meeting will consist of an introductory lecture, followed by seminar presentations and discussion. Here we will discuss what globalization is, and how it has affected South and Southeast Asia politically, economically, culturally, ideologically and psychologically and how it is related to postcolonialism and postcolonial politics. In particular we are interested in exploring the relationship between South and Southeast Asian diaspora populations and their...
homelands in both a religious and nationalist sense, so-called ‘far-way nationalism’. The empirical focus will be mainly on diaspora populations in Europe, Canada and the United States.

Friday October 6, 1-4 pm: **Hindu religious revival ex situ**
Teacher: Toft Madsen

**Literature, week 40**

- Delhi Historians’ Group’s Publication (2001) *Communalisation of Education: The History Textbooks Controversy*, New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru University, India.
- Greenberg, Jonathan Daniel (2005), Generations of Memory: Remembering Partition in India/Pakistan and Israel/Palestine, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, vol. 25, no. 1, pp. 89-110.
Week 41: Gender, Religion, Identity and Conflict in South and South East Asia
Teacher: Sidsel Hansson. Venue: Dept. Political Science, LU.

Monday, October 9, 10-12 am: Analyzing Gender and Religion.
Teacher: Sidsel Hansson
This meeting will consist of an introductory lecture, followed by a discussion. The aim is to introduce theoretical debates that seek to understand the intersections of gender and religion in discourses on identity and politics of difference. The focus will be on the theoretical analysis of gendered discourses and gendered politics of difference. The discussion will prepare for the next two meetings where cases of religious nationalisms and accommodations of multiculturalism will be analyzed and discussed in more detail.

Monday, October 9, 1-4 pm: Gender and Religious Nationalisms
Teacher: Sidsel Hansson
This meeting will consist of an introductory lecture, followed by seminar presentations and discussion. Attention will be given to gender in ‘far-way nationalisms’ and regional identity discourses centred on ‘Asian values’. The aim is to theoretically and empirically analyze the intersections between gender and religion in nationalisms. We will look at some cases where the gendering of nationalism has been particularly pronounced, i.e. the religious nationalisms in India and Pakistan. The focus will be on the intensification of the gendering (with hyper-masculinization of agency and feminization of boundaries, etc.) during mobilizations, and its implications for gender relations.

Tuesday, October 10, 9-12: Gender, Multiculturalism and Citizenship.
Teacher: Hansson
This meeting will consist of an introductory lecture, followed by seminar presentations and discussion. The focus will be on recent debates on the gendered nature of citizenship, and the complex relationship between multiculturalism and gender equality. The aim is to theoretically and empirically analyze some cases where gender has become a site of tension in contexts where secular states have sought to accommodate religious minority cultures, such as India, Great Britain and Canada.

Guest lectures:
Tuesday, October 10, 1-4: Gender Harmony and Conflict in Contemporary Vietnam.
Guest lecturer: Helle Rydström, LU / LiU.

Wednesday, October 11, 9-12 am: Gender, Agency and Buddhism in Thailand.
Guest lecturer: Monica Lindberg Falk, LU/GU.
This guest lecture addresses interactions between Buddhism and gender relations. It gives examples and explains significances of legitimacy, agency, and performance in the religious field. The lecture gives example of how contemporary Buddhist female ascetics utilize their autonomy and find ways to create space outside the male hierarchy and discusses the ongoing process of re-establishing the Theravada female monks’ order.

Wednesday, October 11, 1-4: Gender, Islam and Societal Development in Indonesia.
Guest lecture: Ann Kull, CTR, LU.
Friday, October 13, 9-12: **Seminar**

Teachers: Catarina Kinnvall, Sidsel Hansson and Stig Toft Madsen.

Course summary and presentation of paper ideas/drafts.

Literature week 41:

- Hansson, Sidsel and Catarina Kinnvall (forthcoming), ‘Gender, Multiculturalism and Religious Discourse(s) - Women as Symbols in Hindu Nationalism,’ in *Gendered Inequalities in Asia*. Copenhagen, NIAS Press.

Week 43: Paper workshop
October 24: Submission of student papers
October 26 – 27, 9-12 and 13-16: **Paper seminar**
  Venue: NIAS, Copenhagen
  External examiner and guest lecturer: Peter van der Veer or Thomas Blom Hansen (not confirmed)