



The Nons

Online workshop within the cooperation between the Universities of Manila, Ibadan and Fribourg in the research-programme "Global Catholicism"

April 27th, 2023

Secularisation seemed to be a temporary phenomenon. The fact that a larger number of people did not belong to any religious community, as in the Soviet Union or other communist countries, could be considered a phenomenon of the past after 1989. But sociological data suggest a different development: the number of "nons", of people who do not belong to any religious community or see themselves as agnostics or atheists, is relatively stable – and their number is growing. And the conviction that this is a phenomenon in Western countries, seems to be weakly substantiated either. Especially if – for example – this decline is related to general individualisation, one has to discuss whether such developments could then also increase outside Western countries.

We will explore these questions in the transcontinental workshop on the "nons". On the one hand, the discussion will be about perceiving and interpreting developments in the sociology of religion in three countries: the Philippines, Nigeria and Switzerland. Then we will explore the fundamental question of whether these secularisation processes are regional or global developments. Fundamental assessments of the worldwide development of religions and their social significance depend on the answer to this question.

The event is also part of a programme of research on global Catholicism, which is the largest single religious community in the world, but widely poorly researched.

Credit points are awarded according to the rules of the respective universities.

Programme

9h00 – 9h15 (CET) <i>16h00 – 16h15 (GMT+8)</i>	Introduction	
9h15 – 10h15 (CET) <i>16h15 – 17h15 (GMT+8)</i>	Session I	The Political and Societal Situation in the Philippines, Nigeria, and Switzerland Joel Sagut, fr. Dokun Oyeshola op, Helmut Zander
10h15 – 10h55 (CET) <i>17h15 – 17h55 (GMT+8)</i>	Session II	Nons in the Philippines Pilar Romero
10h55 – 11h15 (CET) <i>17h55 – 18h15 (GMT+8)</i>	Pause	
11h15 – 11h55 (CET) <i>18h15 – 18h55 (GMT+8)</i>	Session III	Nons in Switzerland Arnd Bünker
11h55 – 12h35 (CET) <i>18h55 – 19h35 (GMT+8)</i>	Session IV	Nons in Nigeria fr. Dokun Oyeshola op
12h25 – 12h45 (CET) <i>19h35 – 19h45 (GMT+8)</i>	Pause	
12h45 – 13h25 (CET) <i>19h45 – 20h25 (GMT+8)</i>	Session V	Secularization as a Gamechanger Helmut Zander
13h25 – 13h45 (CET) <i>20h25 – 20h45 (GMT+8)</i>	Closure	