RELIGION AND KEY GLOBAL CHANGES
In Migration, Identity, Gender and Cosmopolitanism

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This panel proposal aims to contribute to the debate on the intersections between religion, gender and migration in globalized societies. In this context, three concepts are fundamental to the debate:

1) the contemporary cosmopolitanism
2) globalization
3) pluralism.

The goal of this panel is therefore to discuss how different worldviews and different systems of values are able to coexist in a complex global society. Relevant subjects such as religion, gender inequalities and hierarchies, equal opportunities, work and social mobility will be discussed. They are all strongly interconnected. Religion plays a crucial role in the process of globalization and pluralism, both in the life of individuals and in entire societies. What forms have religions taken today? Are they different from the past? Are the changes perceptible?
What is the place of religion globally? To what extent has the “diffused religion” spread throughout the world, through trajectories of symbolic combinations? In this way, the values of religion evolve in terms of openness and fusion with philosophical, social, political values, opinions and attitudes in a global hybrid process.

In light of the new contemporary scenarios, religion, migration processes, gender and identity go hand in hand. What else but migration processes and experiences can convey the idea of cosmopolitanism and pluralism: different languages, different customs, different ethnic groups, different beliefs, different aspects and so on. Transnational religious networks are an excellent example of religion beyond borders, which particularly affects immigrants and women. Religion moves to a different level, which is digital. These networks can be constructive for the communities that practice them or they can slow down the process of social and religious exchange. The concept of identity is equally crucial for the orientation of people in an interconnected global society. In the logic of cosmopolitan virtues, one may wonder whether religion is barring or enabling women’s emancipation, how much immigration is linked to justice. That is, the human rights protection of migrants, since inclusive virtues tend to transcend the boundaries of gender, nationality and any status that tends to categorize individuals and to belittle their intrinsic value.

Starting from these thoughts, the panel will thus focus on the following issues: religion, globalization and pluralism; transnational religious networks; cosmopolitanism and the global women’s rights movement; human rights, migration and cosmopolitanism; global religious futures.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Roberto Cipriani, Panel Chair, Roma Tre University (topic Religion)
2. Francesca Cubeddu, Sapienza, University of Rome (topic Migration or gender)
3. Francesca Greco, Roma Tre University (topic Glocal sentiment)
4. Vera Kopsaj, University Gabriele d’Annunzio University (topic Migration)
5. Elisabetta Ruspini, University of Milan, Bicocca (topic Gender)
6. Sara Petroccia, Gabriele d’Annunzio University (topic Migration)
7. Luigi Solivetti, Sapienza, University of Rome, (topic Immigrants and integration: natives and foreigners)