



Religious Pluralism and its implications in Indian social and religious life

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India's religious and cultural pluralism is the outcome of a long and complex historical process shaped by indigenous traditions, colonial encounters, and religious and political developments. This block seminar seeks to examine the historical, theological, cultural, and political factors that contributed to the emergence of this pluralism and its significance for social cohesion and religious harmony in India.

The seminar also addresses contemporary cultural nationalism marked by the rise of religiously motivated political movements and politically driven religious leadership. Under the rubric of cultural nationalism, these forces increasingly construct oppositional narratives between majority and minority communities. Such developments have led to the rejection of plurality, the erosion of interreligious harmony, and the growing marginalization of minority groups.

There are four Key themes:

1. Indian Nationalism under Colonial Rule: Minority Responses and Christian Engagement
2. Churches, Nation-Building, and National Integration in India:
3. Religious and Cultural Nationalism in Contemporary India: Minority Experiences
4. Politics of 'Othering', Social Cohesion, and the Role of Christian Women.

The classes are held in English language. Inscription via ILIAS required.

First meeting for preparation: 23 February 2026, 12.30-2.00 p.m. (per zoom);
Classes are taking place on 23/24 April 2026 and 21/22 May 2026 (in presence), (starting on Thursdays in the afternoon from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. On Fridays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

Room: Unitobler A 206
Länggassstrasse 51, 3012 Bern

