



Religions and Politics in Latin America

Despite classic modernity's predictions, religions today can be found not only in the private lives of millions of individuals across the globe, religions can be seen in the public dimensions of contemporary societies as well. This has led to many scholars pointing out the re-emergence of the religious in the present or the upsurge of a so-called "post-secular" world. In this sense, Latin American societies are a particular case in point because it is not only possible to see across them the effervescence of the religious in diverse forms, but it is also possible to infer from them that religions certainly transformed over time yet were never gone. A wide spectrum of religious beliefs, practices, institutions and discourses have changed, shifted and even become "liquid" over time, however they have been always in both the private lives of individuals and the public dimensions that traverse groups, communities, institutions and larger societal structures in Latin America. One of those public dimensions where the religious has transformed and persisted is doubtless the set of complex political dimensions of Latin American societies. This course is designed to provide participants with an overview of the different roles that the religious has played in the political spheres of past and present Latin American societies. The course's content introduces participants to the most relevant instances of religions-and-politics in the northern, central and southern Latin American regions, from the evangelico-political "civilizing" missions of colonial Catholicism, to the role of Catholic churches during dictatorial regimes in the 20th century as well as Christian groups' opposition to sexual and reproductive rights in the 21st century.