

# Argument

'African Churches' have been present in Europe for some decades now, but their developments have taken a new dimension with the intensification of African migrations to Europe in the 1980s and 1990s. Beyond their doctrinal and institutional diversity and divergences, these churches have in common to be carried by African populations who all too often remain stigmatized and marginalized at the social, political and juridical levels. Simultaneously however, they now do compete in an explicit way with historical mission churches, and attract an important proportion of Africans installed in Europe. Depending on the perspective, these churches can alternatively be viewed as a globalized and particularly dynamic contribution to the edification of contemporary Christianities, or as the refuge of ethno-religious communalisms not entirely compatible with European public spaces.

From the diverse issues of identity, networks and circulations of religious actors, relations to the public sphere, and gender, contributions to the conference will seek to show how African Christian worlds of Europe are now situated at the very heart of dynamics of reconfiguration of African imaginations of Europe, but also of European imaginations of Africa.

## Scientific Committee

Afe Adogame, David Berliner, Pierre-Joseph Laurent, Maïté Maskens, Joël Noret, Pierre Petit, Andrea Rea, Benjamin Rubbers, Ramon Sarro

# Practical Information / Informations pratiques

## Address / Lieu

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SALLE HENRI JANNE, 15TH FLOOR

## Inscription costs / Frais d'inscription

University participants (Belgium): free  
Communauté universitaire (Belgique): gratuit  
Non-University participants: 20 € / Day (Thur. and Fri.)  
Extérieurs: 20 € / Jour (jeudi et vendredi)

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GÉLIQUE ET D'EDIFICATION

BLISE GOSHEN

## International Conference

8-10 December 2010



Christ et Chorale Eglise Goshen  
07 NOVEMBRE 2010

Samedi de 18h00 à 21h00  
Dimanche de 14h00 à 17h00

UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES,  
UNIVERSITÉ D'EUROPE



# Programme

## **Wednesday 8 December**

**16.30-17.00**

Welcome address by Andrea Rea (ULB)

& Introduction to the Conference

by Maïté Maskens and Joël Noret (ULB)

**17.00-18.30**

Keynote lecture by Rijk Van Dijk (ASC, Leiden)

**Producing a Public Space: Ghanaian**

**Pentecostals in a European public domain**

In many studies of the position of African Christians and their organizations in Europe, the existence of a singular public sphere in nation-states is taken for granted. Much influenced by the work of Habermas and of Taylor, the assumption is that within a nation-state one public space has emerged, which furthermore has become increasingly secular in the course of European history. Studies of African Christian communities, consequently, deal with apparent dichotomies of the traditional versus the modern, the pre-secular versus the secular and the emergence of the public versus the private. In many ways, these Christian communities that originate from various parts of Africa are often interpreted as having great difficulty in creating a meaningful place for themselves in what is perceived as a singular and secularized public domain.

In this paper I explore the relevance of a multifaceted understanding of 'public sphere' in the plural, by drawing attention to the coming into being of a Ghanaian, Pentecostal-inspired domain which is only partially related to, or informed by a (monolithic) national public sphere. While a national public domain is connected to the emergence of a specific Ghanaian Pentecostal sphere, this multiplicity allows for diverging dynamics at the same time, which this paper investigates.

## **Thursday 9 December**

**9.20-12.20**

**PANEL** Debated identities / Identités en débat

**Benjamin Simon** (Pädagogische Hochschule Karlsruhe, Germany), *Identity and Ecumenical Partnership of Churches of African Origin in Germany*

**Mattia Fumanti** (University of St Andrews), "Virtuous Citizenship": *Ethnicity and Encapsulation among Akan-Speaking Ghanaian Methodists in London*

**Sarah Demart** (Université Catholique de Louvain et Université de Toulouse), *Rompre avec les catégories de l'identité et de l'imaginaire, une question de salut ?*

Discussant: **Joël Noret** (Université libre de Bruxelles)

**13.20-16.40**

**PANEL** Gender(s) issues / Questions de genre(s)

**Damien Mottier** (EHESS, Paris), *La séduction dans l'église. Le prophète, les femmes, le diable*

**Bénédicte Meiers** (Université de Liège), «Femmes de valeur» et «hommes nouveaux dans le « Ministère du combat spirituel » de mama Olangi (Bruxelles-Kinshasa)

**Joana Santos** (University of Lisbon), *To be a Kimbanguist, being a Woman*

**Maïté Maskens** (Université libre de Bruxelles), *The Pentecostal reworking of masculinities among (Euro-)Africans in Brussels*

Discussant: **Sarah Bracke** (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

**17.00**

**FILM** Prophète(s)

A documentary film by **Damien Mottier** (EHESS, Paris)  
[in French, English subtitles]

## **Friday 10 December**

**9.00-12.20**

**PANEL** Relations to the public sphere / Le rapport au politique et à l'espace public

**François Laperche** (Université libre de Bruxelles), *La place du religieux dans un hôpital public bruxellois. La prise en charge des séropositifs pentecôtistes africains*

**Barbara Menier** (Université libre de Bruxelles), *La place du protestantisme évangélique et pentecôtiste « africain » au sein de ce mouvement chrétien en Région bruxelloise*

**David Garbin** (University of Surrey), *Marching for God in the Global City: moral landscapes and identities among the Congolese Kimbanguist diaspora in London*

**Anne Kubai** (Uppsala University), *Accommodation and tension: African congregations and their Swedish hosts*

Discussant: **Johan Leman** (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

**13.20-16.40**

**PANEL** Circulations of religious actors / Réseaux et circulation des acteurs religieux

**Ruy Llera Blanes** (University of Lisbon), *Lisbon prophecies. Charisma and foreseeing in the Tokoist church's diaspora*

**Jeanne Rey** (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva), *Pentecostal networks and the circulation of Men of God in Switzerland*

**Max Ruben Ramos** (University of Lisbon), *Cape Verdean protestant missionaries in Portugal: towards an approach of contemporary Christianity*

**Baptiste Coulmont** (Université de Paris 8), *Capitals and networks : a sociology of Paris' black churches*

Discussant: **Afe Adogame** (University of Edinburgh)