



Multiculturalism

Friday June 23rd, 2017

How can Society deal with it?

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Palace of the Academies
Hertogstraat 1
Brussels



KVAB Thinker's Programme 2017

Multiculturalism - How can society deal with it?

Thinkers-in-residence:

Prof. Tariq Modood, Bristol University

Prof. Frank Bovenkerk, University of Utrecht

Can we create new national stories so that all citizens, regardless of their background, can have a sense of belonging to the national community? If schools are a micro cosmos of society - should they reflect the diversity of society? How can crime and terrorism be confronted?

Recent decades have been characterised by a growing polarisation in Europe on questions of immigration and integration and a lot of fear amongst the public about the infringement upon their way of life. In defining their stances majorities tend to rely more on their own fear rather than knowledge of what is going on in the world of minorities. The Thinkers Programme aims to initiate a reflection on the subject of multiculturalism as a mode of political accommodation of minorities formed by immigration into Belgium (and Flanders in particular) as well as of the majority population. The subject will be dealt with on two levels: (political) theory and the problems of practice.

This symposium will reflect on the complex theme of multiculturalism, more specifically: multiple identities in conflict and/or harmony. Thinkers in Residence Tariq Modood and Frank Bovenkerk will present their draft report and ask stakeholders and experts to respond.

The Thinkers Programme

The Thinkers Programme is a unique multidisciplinary and future oriented initiative with a high-level societal impact. With and around two prominent international experts and jointly with members of the Academy and numerous partners and stakeholders, work is performed around an important timely theme which has a specific relevance for Flanders. The aim is to provide a significant contribution to the further strategic development of Flanders by developing a long term vision and in this way to contribute to governance.

This programme, initiated by the Class of the Human Sciences, aims to initiate a reflection on the subject of multiculturalism as a mode of political accommodation of minorities formed by immigration into Belgium (and Flanders in particular) as well as of the majority population. The subject will be dealt with on two levels: (political) theory and the problems of practice. Its aim is to lead to solving concrete social and political problems.

The general theme of study is: Multiple Identities in Conflict and/or Harmony

- Aspects of multiculturalism in schools
- Aspects of cultural diversity in delinquency. A critical assessment in relation to the two themes of crime and terrorism

Of the two invited Thinkers, Tariq Modood (from the UK) has expertise in studying the phenomenon at a macro, ideational and symbolic level, whereas Frank Bovenkerk (from the Netherlands) has a more micro approach on an everyday, behavioural and interactional level. The UK has a lively and public debate on the theory of multiculturalism, whereas empirical social science research in the Netherlands has produced many insights into the practical side of the problem. The complementarity of their backgrounds and expertise is an asset for the programme.



'Monument to Multiculturalism' by Francesco Perilli in Toronto

09:00 Welcome & Introduction

- Welcome by **Godelieve Laureys**, Chair of the Class of Humanities
- Introduction by **Marie-Claire Foblets**

The Thinkers will start each session with a comment on their view as described in the draft report. The respondents are invited to react on this draft followed by a discussion in each session.

09:30 Session 1: Modes of Integration, Multiculturalism and National Identities

Chair: **Marie-Claire Foblets**

Statement of **Tariq Modood**, Thinker in Residence

Reactions:

- **Patrick Loobuyck** (UAntwerp, Centre Pieter Gillis)
- **Leen Verraest** (Flemish Agency for Integration)
- **Orhan Agirdag** (KU Leuven, Education & Society)
- **Dirk Jacobs** (ULB, GERME, Institut de Sociologie)

Discussion on session 1

11:30 Coffee break

11:50 Session 2: Religious Diversity in a Secular Society; with special reference to Education in Flanders

Chair: **Koen Matthijs**

Statement of **Tariq Modood**, Thinker in Residence

Reactions:

- **Jozefien De Leersnyder** (KU Leuven, Social and Cultural Psychology)
- **Elias Hemelsoet** (GO! Education of the Flemish Community)
- **Christian Wyns** (Flemish Catholic Education)
- **Leni Franken** (UAntwerp, Centre Pieter Gillis)

13:20 **Lunch break**

14:30 **Discussion on session 2**

15:00 **Session 3: Multicultural Diversity and Delinquency in Belgium**

Chair: **Ron Lesthaeghe**

Statement of **Frank Bovenkerk**, Thinker in Residence

Reactions:

- **Stefaan Pleysier** (KU Leuven, Leuven Institute of Criminology)
- **Marleen Easton** (UGent, Research group Governance of Security, Faculty of Economics)
- **Annalisa Gadelela** (Alderman Molenbeek)
- **Alexander van Leuven** (KU Leuven, Interculturalism Migration and Minorities Research Centre)

Discussion on session 3

17:00 **Discussion with the audience on the draft report as a whole**

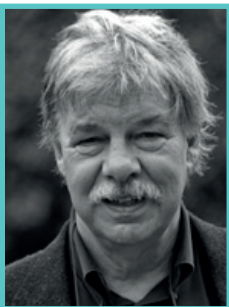
17:30 **Concluding remarks by Ron Lesthaeghe**

17:40 **Reception**



Tariq Modood

Tariq Modood is Professor of Sociology, Politics and Public Policy at the University of Bristol, the founding director of the Research Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship, and the co-founding editor of the international academic journal *Ethnicities*. During his academic career he has worked widely on ethnic and religious minority issues: from disadvantages and opportunities in higher education and the labour market to 'ethnic capital'; from the theory and politics of multiculturalism and secularism to political conflict and political accommodation. His approach to minority issues has always been characterised by a special focus on religious identity at a macro, ideational and symbolic level.



Frank Bovenkerk

Frank Bovenkerk is a Dutch cultural anthropologist and criminologist. He is Professor Emeritus Criminology at the Willem Pompe Institute for Criminal Law and Criminology, University of Utrecht and Professor Radicalization at the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, University of Amsterdam. He has expertise in organized crime, discrimination and criminal justice in the multicultural society. He approaches the subject of multiculturalism from an everyday, behavioural and interactional level, providing insights into the practical side of the problem.

Marie-Claire Foblets

Marie-Claire Foblets is Professor of Law at the University of Leuven and Director of the Department of Law & Anthropology at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle (Germany). From September 2009 to November 2010 she was the co-chair of the Assises de l'Interculturalité (The Round Tables on Interculturalism) in Belgium. She has conducted extensive research and published widely on issues of migration law, including the elaboration of European migration law after the Treaty of Amsterdam, citizenship/nationality laws, compulsory integration, anti-racism and non-discrimination. In the field of the anthropology of law, her research focuses on cultural diversity and legal practice, with a particular interest in the application of Islamic family law in Europe, and more recently in the accommodation of cultural and religious diversity under state law.



Godelieve Laureys

Godelieve Laureys held the chair of Scandinavian Linguistics at Ghent University until 2015. From 1983 until 1992 she was Full Professor of Scandinavian Languages and Literature at Groningen University. Her main field of research is modern Scandinavian linguistics, but she has also done research on cultural transfer and on the image of Scandinavia in Europe, as encoded in texts and discourse. She was a member of the Board of Governors of Ghent University (2004-2012) and of the Executive Committee of Ghent University (2008-2012). She is still appointed as advisor to the Rector of Ghent University and is chair of the Class of the Humanities of the Royal Flemish Academy since September 2016.





Ron Lesthaeghe

Ron J. Lesthaeghe is Professor Emeritus Demography and Social Science Methodology at the Free University of Brussels (VUB). He is Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan, University of California at Irvine and Autònoma University Barcelona. He is best known for Belgian historical demography, ageing and social security, sub-Saharan nuptiality, fertility and patterns of social organisation. More recently also for the theory of the "Second Demographic Transition" and the empirical following up of its diffusion to Southern and Eastern Europe, the Far East and the Americas.



Koen Matthijs

Koen Matthijs is Full Professor of Sociology and Demography at the University of Leuven. He is head of the research group Family and Population Studies, directing the integration of historical demographic research on long-term, sociodemographic trends with contemporary sociological studies on current family structures and processes. He has published widely on (historical) fertility, marriage, divorce, family forms, migration and mortality. He is promoter-spokesman of the Scientific Research Network Historical Demography (FWO Flanders) and editor-in-chief of Historical Life Course Studies.

Orhan Agirdag

Orhan Agirdag (PhD Sociology) is an Assistant Professor at the KU Leuven and the University of Amsterdam and a former Fulbright Fellow at the UCLA. His main research interests include inequality in education, teacher education, multilingualism and religiosity. His work received multiple prestigious awards. He authored more than 90 publications. As a multilingual researcher, he writes in English, Dutch and Turkish. Professor Agirdag is regularly invited to give public talks and his opinions are regularly featured in the media.



Jozefien De Leersnyder

Jozefien De Leersnyder is an Assistant Professor of Cultural Psychology at the University of Amsterdam and a (FWO) research fellow at the Center for Social and Cultural Psychology at KU Leuven. In her research, she aims to shed light on the intertwining of culture, psyche and well-being, particularly in changing and diverse social worlds. She focuses on emotions as they are the 'social glue' between people, and mismatches in how/when emotions are experienced/expressed often lie at the heart of (intercultural) misunderstanding.



Marleen Easton

Marleen Easton is a social worker and a sociologist. She is Professor at the Department of Public Governance, Management and Finances at the Faculty of Economics & Business Administration at Ghent University. She is director of the research group Governing and Policing Security (GaPS) at Ghent University, president of the Innovation Center for Security (vzw INNOS) and Visiting Professor at the Ruhr Universität Bochum. Her main research interests are public policing, the governance of security and related change management issues.





Leni Franken

Leni Franken is an FWO postdoctoral researcher at the Centre Pieter Gillis of the University of Antwerp, where she teaches 'worldviews' at the Faculty of Law and at the Faculty of Applied Engineering. Her research interests are state neutrality and (anti)perfectionism, political liberalism, church-state relations, faith-based schooling, freedom of religion and education, and religious education. On these topics, she wrote numerous international peer reviewed articles and national (opinion) articles. She is also the author of two monographs: 'Liberal Neutrality and State Support for Religion' (Springer, 2016) and 'Geld voor je god? De financiering van levensbeschouwingen in België' (UPA, 2017).



Annalisa Gadaleta

Annalisa Gadaleta is a Belgian-Italian politician for Groen (the Flemish green party). She studied philosophy at the University of Bari. Since 2012 she has been deputy-mayor in Molenbeek and is in charge of Dutch-language affairs, environment, energy and animal welfare. Before that she worked as a counselor of MP Mieke Vogels in the Flemish Parliament and has been active in the non-profit sector. She has followed very closely the dramatic events that took place in Molenbeek since the attacks in Paris in 2015. Thanks to her daily work in the municipality, she has developed her own vision on topics such as radicalisation and safety.



Elias Hemelsoet

Elias Hemelsoet is currently policy advisor of the CEO of GO! onderwijs van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap (GO! public education of the Flemish Community). In that role, he is closely involved in a broad range of educational policy discussions amongst others related to neutrality, equal educational opportunities, inclusion, citizenship, etc. In his PhD research at Ghent University, he conducted research on the meaning of the right to education for Roma children. His main research topics are the educational meaning of children's rights (and the right to education in particular), social inclusion, and the integration of minorities. Previously he was also employed at Hogeschool Gent and Arteveldehogeschool.

Dirk Jacobs

Dirk Jacobs is Full Professor in Sociology at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He is director of the ULB research group GERME (Group for Research on Ethnic Relations, Migration and Equality) where he specializes in migration and integration policies and in the sociology of education. In 2011 Dirk Jacobs received an ERC Starting Grant for the project "Equal opportunities for migrant youth in educational systems with high levels of social and ethnic segregation - assessing the impact of school team resources".



Patrick Loobuyck

Patrick Loobuyck studied Religious Studies at the Catholic University of Leuven and Ethics at Ghent University. He is Full Professor in Philosophy, Religion and Worldviews at the Centre Pieter Gillis of the University of Antwerp and Guest Professor in Political Philosophy at Ghent University. His research focuses on political liberalism, church state regimes, religion in the public sphere, religious education, multiculturalism, liberal nationalism, and Islam in Belgium. He published in several international journals such as *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, *Netherlands Journal of Legal Philosophy*, *Religious Education*, *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, *Political Quarterly*, *Journal of Church and State*, *British Journal of Religious Education*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, and *Ethnicities*.



Stefaan Pleysier

Stefaan Pleysier is currently appointed as Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law at KU Leuven. He is director of the Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC), and coordinates, together with Johan Put, the Research line on Youth Criminology at LINC. His main research interests include youth delinquency, juvenile justice and the criminalization of behavior. He holds a MA degree in Sociology, an Advanced MA in Quantitative Analysis in the Social Sciences and a PhD in Criminology. For his PhD study (published with Boom Lemma), Stefaan Pleysier was awarded the 2010 Frans van Cauwelaert Prize from The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts.





Alexander van Leuven

Alexander van Leuven holds a BA in Social Work from the University of Antwerp and a MA in Social and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Leuven. Currently he is a Research Assistant in Anthropology, within the IMMRC – Interculturalism, Migration and Minorities Research Centre. He is developing a project exploring the concept of 'mistrust' in processes of radicalisation. His fieldwork is concentrated in the Belgian city of Mechelen.



Leen Verraest

Leen Verraest is currently General Director of the Flemish Agency on Integration. She was Deputy Chief of Cabinet of the Vice-president of the Flemish Government and the Flemish Minister of Public Governance, Local Governance, Civic Integration, Tourism and Flemish Periphery, Mr. Geert Bourgeois. She holds a MA in Modern History, a MA in Applied Economics and a Postgraduate in Social Profit Management.



Chris Wyns

Chris Wyns is a pedagogical advisor at Katholiek Onderwijs Vlaanderen (Catholic Education Flanders) with a focus on equity and diversity. He is the contact person for radicalisation and polarisation in schools and has a special interest in restorative practices. He is a former headmaster (2001-2012) at a Brussels school.

Participants list

Ilke	Adam	VUB (Institute for European Studies & Rhea)
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Zeynep	Balci	sp.a
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Sien	Devriendt	UGent
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Freddy	Dumortier	KVAB
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Hendrik	Ferdinande	UGent
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Marie-Claire	Foblets	KVAB / KU Leuven
Joel	Follet	
Leni	Franken	UAntwerp, Centre Pieter Gillis
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Maarten	Huvenne	Unia
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Dao	Liem	
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Koen	Matthijs	KVAB / KU Leuven
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Leo	Neels	Itinera
Lea	Nys	
Emma	Onraet	UGent
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Paulo	Rocha Trindade	European Committee of the Regions
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Anna	Stikane	Sense about Science

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Bieke	Vandamme	VIA Don Bosco
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Lisa	Wouters	VUB
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Fatima	Zibouh	CEDEM - ULg

