

# WSSR WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

## Should the State Tell Us What to Believe and Wear?

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9:00am – 4:30pm

### Summary

We may hear the words “multiculturalism”, “citizenship” and “justice” thrown around in political discourse but do we know what they mean, and do we know what is involved? In a free and democratic society, can the state legislate on issues related to belief and dress?

In this workshop, Professor Gianni will tackle some of the controversies about the accommodation of minority groups in Europe and North America. In particular, he will explore the main empirical, analytical, and normative issues related to the challenges multiculturalism entails for citizenship, democracy and justice, and will focus on the modalities through which specific public policies are mobilized, legitimized, and debated in public space.

He will also address the implications that such policies have on the recognition / misrecognition of “other”, and their normative implications for culturally divided societies. The case study of Muslim integration in Europe will be taken as a guiding example in the discussion. Focus will also be directed at recent events in Quebec surrounding the ban of the religious symbols while providing or receiving public services.

### Outline

#### 1. Questions and (normative) Theories

Understanding citizenship, democracy, politics and justice: Theories and concepts

- Perspectives on citizenship
- Perspectives on recognition
- Perspectives on integration

#### 2. Analysis and Implications

The challenge of cultural difference and of mobility for citizenship, democracy and justice

- Who is to be accommodated? Types of minorities
- Why is to be accommodated? The theory of recognition
- How is to be accommodated? Multiculturalism, interculturalism, republicanism

#### 3. Normative issues and empirical cases

Democratic equality as a fair principle for the accommodation of cultural difference? The case of the integration of Muslims in Western polities.



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## **Required Readings\***

- Carens, Joseph (2013) "Beyond Legal Citizenship to Inclusion" in *The Ethics of Immigration*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 4, pp. 62-87. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EEF907>
- Gianni, Matteo (2016) "On the political and democratic preconditions of equal recognition", *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* <http://0-dx.doi.org/mercury.concordia.ca/10.1080/13698230.2016.1253167>
- Gianni, Matteo (2016) "Muslims' integration as a way to defuse the Muslim Question? Insights from the Swiss case", *Critical Research on Religion*, 4(1): 21-36. <http://0-journals.sagepub.com/mercury.concordia.ca/doi/pdf/10.1177/2050303216630070>
- Modood, Tariq (2010) "Difference, 'Multi' and Equality", in Seymour, M. (ed). *The Plural States of Recognition*. Palgrave, 152-171. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14583F9B>

\*If you are registered for non-credit and are unable to locate the readings, please contact us at [wssr@concordia.ca](mailto:wssr@concordia.ca)

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