

# **Religious Diversity in Intercultural Education: European Developments: Robert Jackson**

*Oslo University College & European Wergeland Centre March 2nd 2010*

## Summary and useful addresses

The lecture will focus on policy development related to studies of religious diversity as a part of intercultural education in Europe. Some international developments will be mentioned, especially in relation to the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations' work on education about religions and beliefs. The Alliance of Civilizations Education about Religions and Belief Clearinghouse and its various international partners will be introduced.

The bulk of the lecture will concentrate on European institutions and the study of religions in schools. The work of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe - through its Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights - will be discussed in relation to the development and publication of the *Toledo Guiding Principles on Teaching about Religions and Beliefs in Public Schools*.

The work of the Council of Europe will be discussed in relation to various projects and strategies aiming to bring the study of religious diversity into the public sphere through its contribution to intercultural education in schools.

The development of an idea within the Council of Europe for a European Centre covering intercultural education and related areas will be discussed in relation to the emergence of the European Wergeland Centre in Oslo. The role of the EWC in promoting studies of religious diversity in the context of intercultural, citizenship and human rights education will be considered.

The contribution of research to policy-making and practice will be considered through a summary of the work of the European Commission Framework Six REDCo Project, which researched issues concerning religion, education, dialogue and conflict in eight European countries between 2006 and 2009. There is an ongoing publishing programme, and a programme of seminars and conferences organised in conjunction with the European Wergeland Centre. The findings of the REDCo project are seen to be consistent with the general policy recommendations from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Council of Europe.

Finally, some ongoing issues relating to policy and practice will be raised for general discussion.

## Some useful addresses

### Warwick Religions and Education Research Unit

See research projects, development projects and latest news

<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/WRERU>

### UN Alliance of Civilizations

UN Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) Education about Religions and Beliefs (ERB) online clearing house – material will be added regularly by partners.

<http://www.aocerb.org>

### OSCE Toledo Guiding Principles

Toledo Guiding Principles on Teaching about Religions and Beliefs in Public Schools

[http://www.osce.org/odihr/item\\_11\\_28314.html](http://www.osce.org/odihr/item_11_28314.html)

## Council of Europe

### Project: Intercultural Education and the Challenge of Religious Diversity and Dialogue

**Book:** Keast, J., ed. (2007) *Religious diversity and intercultural education: a reference book for schools* ISBN 978-92-871-6223-6

[http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&lang=EN&produit\\_aliasid=2191](http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2191)

**Ministerial Recommendation:** *Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)12 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the dimension of religions and non-religious convictions within intercultural education*

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 10 December 2008)

The full text of the recommendation is available at:

[https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Rec\(2008\)12&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Rec(2008)12&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864)

The most relevant sections of the text are in the appendix.

### Project: Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters

The *Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters* has been developed as a follow up to the Council of Europe's White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue "Living together as equals in dignity" (<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/intercultural/>), and in particular in application of Section 5.3 Learning and teaching intercultural competences:

"Complementary tools should be developed to encourage students to exercise independent critical faculties including to reflect critically on their own responses and attitudes to experiences of other cultures." (page 25, paragraph 152)

The *Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters* project materials are available free of charge on [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/autobiography/default\\_EN.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/autobiography/default_EN.asp)

This website contains the two versions of the *Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters*, a standard version and a version for younger learners, as well as various support documents. All documents are published in pdf format and may be downloaded, saved to your computer and used freely.

The Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters is available in French and English, the two official languages of the Council of Europe.

The Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters materials are being disseminated and developed in collaboration with the European Wergeland Centre and the Pestalozzi programme.

### **White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue**

The White Paper (2008) is freely available for downloading at:

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/intercultural/Source/Pub\\_White\\_Paper/White%20Paper\\_final\\_revised\\_EN.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/intercultural/Source/Pub_White_Paper/White%20Paper_final_revised_EN.pdf)

### **The European Commission Framework 6 REDCo Project (Religion, Education, Dialogue, Conflict)**

The 3 year project (2006-9) involved researchers from 9 universities in 8 countries (England, Estonia, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, Spain). Co-ordinated by Professor Wolfram Weisse (Hamburg)

Dissemination, through writing (see below) and through seminars and conferences in collaboration with the European Wergeland Centre is ongoing.

### **Main REDCo Website at the University of Hamburg**

<http://www.redco.uni-hamburg.de/web/3480/3481/index.html>

### **Religious Diversity and Education in Europe book series (Waxmann)**

<http://www.waxmann.com/?id=21&cHash=1&reihe=1862-9547>

10 out of the 19 books so far published or in press are from the REDCo Project.

REDCo books are:

1. [Robert Jackson, Siebren Miedema, Wolfram Weisse, Jean-Paul Willaime \(Eds.\):](#) Religion and Education in Europe. Developments, Contexts and Debates (2007)
2. [Thorsten Knauth, Dan-Paul Jozsa, Gardien Bertram-Troost, Julia Ipgrave \(Eds.\):](#) Encountering Religious Pluralism in School and Society. A Qualitative Study of Teenage Perspectives in Europe
3. [Ursula McKenna, Julia Ipgrave, Robert Jackson:](#) Inter Faith Dialogue by Email in Primary Schools. An Evaluation of the Building E-Bridges Project
4. [Pille Valk, Gardien Bertram-Troost, Markus Friederici, Céline Béraud \(Eds.\):](#) Teenagers' Perspectives on the Role of Religion in their Lives, Schools and Societies. A European Quantitative Study
5. [Anna van der Want, Cok Bakker, Ina ter Avest, Judith Everington \(Eds.\):](#) Teachers Responding to Religious Diversity in Europe. Researching Biography and Pedagogy
6. [Julia Ipgrave, Robert Jackson, Kevin O'Grady](#) (Hrsg.) Religious Education Research through a Community of Practice: Action Research and the Interpretive Approach (2009)
7. [Dan-Paul Jozsa, Thorsten Knauth, Wolfram Weiße](#) (Hrsg.) Religionsunterricht, Dialog und Konflikt

8. [Ina ter Avest](#), [Dan-Paul Jozsa](#), [Thorsten Knauth](#), [Javier Rosón](#), [Geir Skeie](#) (Hrsg.) Dialogue and Conflict on Religion: Studies of Classroom Interaction in European Countries
9. [Aurora Alvarez Veinguer](#), [Gunther Dietz](#), [Dan-Paul Jozsa](#), [Thorsten Knauth](#) (Hrsg.) Islam in Education in European Countries: Pedagogical Concepts and Empirical Findings (2010)
10. [Olga Schihalejev](#) From Indifference to Dialogue? Estonian young people, the School and Religious Diversity (2010)

**REDCo will have a special issue of the *British Journal of Religious Education***  
<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/BJRE> in March 2011, Edited by Robert Jackson  
For Warwick contributions to REDCo, see:  
<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/wie/research/wreru/research/completed/redco>