

Program

Monday 28 November

14.30-15.00 LUX COFFEE

15.00-16.00, LUX C121 **Introduction:** Overall presentation of the project Integration and tradition. The making of the Syriac Orthodox Church in Sweden

Project leader: Dr. Magdalena Nordin, Gothenburg University

Reflections: Dr. Katarina Westerlund, Uppsala university

16.00-17.00, LUX C121 **Result 1:** Hierarchy, democracy and religious tradition – the emergence of Syriac-Orthodox congregation organization in Sweden

Dr. Henrik Johnsen, Stockholm university/Lund University

Reflections: Dr. Andreas Schmoller, Katholische Privat-Universität Linz

18- Conference dinner at Grand Hotel, Lund

Tuesday 29 November

09.00-10.00, LUX B352 **Result 2:** Acculturation: to learn a new culture and uphold an earlier one

Dr. Önver Cetrez, Uppsala University

Reflections: Dr. Ema Demir, University of Cambridge and Stockholm School of Economics

10.00-10.15 COFFEE

10.15-11.15, LUX B352 **Result 3:** Approaching the Altar with Song: Women Deacons in congregations in the Syriac Orthodox Church

Dr. Andreas Westergren, Lund University

Reflections: Dr. Sarah Bakker Kellogg, San Francisco State University

11:30 - 13:00 LUNCH

13.30-14.00 LUX C121 **Result 4:** Family and the transmission of traditions in the Syriac Orthodox Church in Sweden

Dr. Magdalena Nordin, Gothenburg University

Reflections: Dr. Astrid Krabbe Trolle, Roskilde University

14.30-15.30, LUX C121 **Panel:** How can the results from the project be of relevance outside academia?

- Dr. Broula Barnohro Oussi, development manager at the Swedish Red Cross
- Professor, Aho Shemunkasho, Director of MA studies in Syriac Theology, University of Salzburg
- Habiibah Kabenge Musana, pastor, Legacy for Christ Ministries, Malmö

- Henrik Malm Lindberg, dep. Office manager, The Migration Studies Delegation

15.30-16.00

COFFEE

16.00-17.00 LUX B352

Researcher meeting: needs and possibilities for future research about religious minorities in diaspora

18-

Conference dinner at restaurant Ihsiri, Lund

Everyone is welcome to join and there is no conference fee. However, if you want to join also for coffee, lunch and dinners, you have to apply on: SOCiS@ctr.lu.se.

For further information see: <https://www.ctr.lu.se/en/forskning/forskningsprojekt-vid-ctr/integration-and-tradition-the-making-of-the-syriac-orthodox-church-in-sweden/>

Welcome,

Magdalena, Andreas, Henrik & Önver

Abstracts

Result 1: *Hierarchy, democracy and religious tradition – the emergence of Syriac-Orthodox congregation organization in Sweden*, Henrik Johnsén

Based upon a case study of three Syriac-orthodox congregations in Sweden, with empirics from field studies and archives collected during a four-year project, this paper discusses how three Syriac-orthodox congregations have gradually established themselves in Sweden since the 1960's. How have the congregations organized themselves? Which factors and actors within the Syriac-orthodox church and within the Swedish society have contributed to their establishment on the local level and to the specific form of the congregation organization? To what extent have Swedish democratic ideals had an effect on the emergent organization and leadership? Which negotiations and tensions have been the most apparent in the three specific cases?

Result 2: *Acculturation: to learn a new culture and uphold an earlier one*, Önver Cetrez

This presentation focuses on acculturation within a religious and ethnic minority in Sweden, where identity, motivation and learning are central themes. This is discussed based on qualitative material among Syriac Orthodox parishioners in Sweden as well as on the basis of different generations and genders. Special focus is placed on processes of tradition and change.

Result 3: *Approaching the Altar with Song: Women Deacons in congregations in the Syriac Orthodox Church*, Andreas Westergren

The question of women deacons is a burning issue in Catholic and Orthodox traditions of today. With a precedent in the early church and the choirs of St Ephrem, the question is lively discussed in the contemporary Syriac Orthodox church. In this study, the focus is not the history or theology of the matter, but how the question resonates on a congregational level in Sweden today, especially among women of whom some say they have been ordained.

Result 4: *Family and the transmission of traditions in the Syriac Orthodox Church in Sweden*, Magdalena Nordin