

Summer School on Human Rights, Minorities and Diversity Management

Europe and Canada: Comparative issues and challenges

25.06.2012 – 06.07.2012
Bozen/Bolzano – Italy

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Scholarships
available

Europe & Canada: Has multiculturalism survived?

European states and Canada have in common linguistic and cultural diversity. Within a typical European state and Canada, there is a majority, predominant language, as well as at least one national linguistic minority (more than one, in the case of many European states) and indigenous peoples. Linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples all have particular needs and claims that must be accommodated; indeed the duty to accommodate has a foundation in law. Immigration from other parts of the world has added a third layer of diversity that has presented its own set of challenges to be addressed. However it has also presented the states of Europe and Canada with an enormous opportunity to enter into transparent discussion about: i) what the values are of a liberal democracy; and ii) how should newcomers to our homelands be accommodated without sacrificing values such as gender equality, rule of law, and freedom of conscience.

Assimilation does not seem to be the way to go. Now, policies of multiculturalism are coming under increasingly critical scrutiny, even attack. Only recently, multiculturalism has been declared in various European countries as “an utter failure”.

- However, have the U.K., the Netherlands, France, and Germany really turned their backs on multiculturalism?
- Or has there only been a terminological shift while the governments of European states and Canada nevertheless maintain their multicultural policies?
- Has the apparent European backlash against multiculturalism had any impact on Canada?
- Are the policies vis-à-vis diversity really so different there?
- If so, how, and can Europe learn from the “Canadian model” in order to develop sustainable diversity management policies of its own?

Methodology

Presenters and students at this year’s IMR Summer School will work together to seek answers to these and other questions. The legal perspective, focusing on the one hand on the theoretical aspects of cultural accommodation and on the other hand on the implementation of legal standards, will lay the groundwork for further discussion about the social and political implications of increasing diversity in society.

Students will not only get an in-depth view on various dimensions of diversity management, human rights and in particular minority rights, but also will have the

opportunity to discuss with international leading academics, lawyers and practitioners from international organizations how accommodation policies may be successfully implemented. Moreover, the teaching approach of the Summer School not only provides for interactive thought-provoking academic lectures, but also provides students with the opportunity to engage in hypothetical case studies and role playing exercises.

The program is tailored to:

- Master's and PhD students wishing to acquire greater competitive personal competence beneficial for a future career in academia or in practice-oriented professions;
- Lawyers, economists, social scientists and others working in non-governmental organizations, particularly those concerned with anti-racism initiatives and immigration settlement initiatives;
- Civil servants from local, regional or national administrations who primarily deal with minority and diversity related issues and therefore require both theoretical and practical training in diversity management; and
- Journalists and teachers interested in recent developments, current theories and advanced training in related fields.

Location & Institutions

Scholars and practitioners as well as students from Europe and Canada will elaborate on the topics of the Summer School in the city of Bolzano/Bozen, which itself is populated by a majority population of Italian speakers, although it is a capital of a province dominated by the German-speaking minority. In addition, the city is home to migrants constituting 13% of the city's population and a tiny Ladin minority.

This year's Summer School is offered by the Institute for Minority Rights of the European Academy Bozen/Bolzano (EURAC) in co-operation with the Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre (ACLRC) at the University of Calgary, in Calgary, Canada.

EURAC – The European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano is located in the autonomous region of Trentino-Alto Adige/South Tyrol in northern Italy. The case of South Tyrol is often referred to as a model case of self-governance as well as a model solution for minority protection and of the accommodation of diversity. Hence EURAC is able to provide exceptional theoretical and practical knowledge in the examination and application of issues related to minority protection and regionalism, as well as in relation to immigration in regions with strong cultural identities.

ACLRC – The Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organization affiliated with the Law Faculty at the University of Calgary, Canada. The Research Centre undertakes research and engages in educational activities on current civil liberties and human rights issues. The ACLRC also responds to members of the public who call with questions about civil liberties and human rights and are thus experienced not only on the theoretical implications of diversity management but the practical implementation of such policies as well.

Organizational Aspects

Tuition fee: 300€.

Accommodation, travel costs and other expenses are not covered by the tuition fee.

Convenient accommodation for participants can be arranged by the organizers.

For further information, including detailed programme and application procedure, please visit: www.eurac.edu/summerschool

