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Muslim Minorities in Switzerland and the UK. Public domain and incorporation.

The religious landscape in the European states has changed in the second half of the 20th Century. Labour migration, decolonisation and flight from war led to an increase in the number of Muslim immigrants in different European countries. Muslim labour migration characterised the first wave of immigrants. The workers intended to return to their home countries as soon as they would finish their assignments. However, many stayed permanently and later chose to bring their families to the residence countries. The Muslims organized themselves and set up associations among these mosques and prayer rooms. Some of those require and / or encourage participation in the public domain.

My dissertation project compares the British and the Swiss experience of Immigration, settlement and societal incorporation of the respective Muslim Minorities.

On the one hand, the country-specific particularities (e.g. juridical and political factors of the contexts) have to be investigated. On the other hand, the circumstances and the conditions of the Muslim communities have to be explored. The focus will be on the forms of public manifestation of the Migrants' religion, particularly the construction of "purpose-built mosques" (Peach/Gale 2003).

The overall aim of my study is to analyse the backgrounds and causes of differences and similarities and their causes in the incorporation of the Muslim Minorities in Switzerland and the U.K.