Abstract of Master’s Dissertation

**Success and Failure in Incorporating Religious Difference; A Study of Switzerland**

Switzerland is a federation that has incorporated Christian religious difference for centuries, and should offer a model of religious co-existence. In common with other European countries it has experienced an upsurge of immigration in recent years, bringing with it challenges of integrating new religious diversity. However, it seems to have experienced the same tensions as other European countries and some that have arisen uniquely in Switzerland.

This dissertation examines the paradox of the rise in power of the modern federal state and ‘Swiss’ identity triggering a defensive exclusionary narrative of localism and populism. This in turn t has harmed the prospects of inter-religious tolerance.