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The Ahmadiyya in Switzerland: Ethnography of a Muslim Reform Movement with special regard to Switzerland's conditions of incorporation

While public discourses in Switzerland tend to speak of Islam as a monolithic entity, and while they are dominated by a vague concept of orthodox Islam, in reality Switzerland's Muslims belong to a wide variety of different traditions and communities. These include for example the Ahmadiyya, a globally spread Muslim community who has its origins in British-India of the late 19th century.

In my PhD project, I examine the history, the institutionalization and "integration" of the Ahmadiyya jamaat (community) in Switzerland. Special attention is paid to interactions between the community and their environment in Switzerland, in other words, Switzerland's conditions of incorporation. These conditions grow out of the social, religious, and legal environment as well as the host country's policies on immigration and integration. They influence forms of organisation and the course of action of an immigrated religious community.

I also focus the relations between the community and its country of origin (Pakistan) as well as other Ahmadi communities abroad.

By paying attention to the aforementioned conditions of incorporation, my project will make a useful and important contribution to today's integration debate.