

## Abstract

### Tagung "Afrikaforschung in Österreich: Zugänge und Einordnungen"

#### Missions and visions of religiously-affiliated, private universities in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Bernadette Müller Kmet

Since the 1990s the number of newly established universities in Sub-Saharan Africa has grown rapidly. One of the reasons is the limited capacity of public institutions to deal with increasing numbers of students, private institutions have emerged to supply the market. Within the private higher education institutions a differentiation can be made between private for-profit and private nonprofit institutions. The undertaken research concentrates on private, nonprofit religious education that is provided by Christian and Islamic institutions. Within these religions there is a variety of denominations engaged in the provision of tertiary education. Their religious commitment expressed in the university policy and in the curricula will vary. However, religious-based education is associated with “serving the poor”, “community service”, “spreading moral values” and in a negative sense “limiting academic freedom” (Andreescu 2004; Grace 2003). A core function of higher education is the proper preparation of highly qualified people for the labor-market and for responsible positions within the country. Thus, higher education, regardless of the institution’s ownership, does not only benefit the individual graduate. It is also a public good because of its contribution to national wealth creation, to economic and social development, to cultural formation, to democratization and to social security and peacekeeping (Morley/Leach/Lugg 2009; Marginson 2007). In this regard the ideological orientation of graduates plays an important societal role. The question arises whether religiously-affiliated universities impart specific values among students and have an impact on the civil development of the society or whether they are the same as the values transmitted in public institutions.

The research aims at revealing the missions and visions of religiously-affiliated private universities in comparison to those of public universities. The presentation will be structured in the following way: First, an overview of private and public universities in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda will be provided. Second, a content analysis of websites of private and public universities will investigate the universities mission and vision statements, the objectives and the goals of higher education institutions in relation to its funding body. Third, an outlook on a planned research project in this area will be given.

#### References

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