To what degree might public schools play positive and supporting roles among migrant communities within which religion provides a sense of security? What do these roles look like? What defines the limitations that schools face in specifying and fulfilling these roles?

In the contemporary era, the “secularization thesis” - or belief that as societies progress through modernization and rationalization religion will lose its authority within social life as well as state governance - has been seriously called into question. Religion continues to have a profound effect on life within modern liberal democratic states, especially in respect of religious identities of migrant populations.

In this seminar, Dr Collet will examine migration, “religious security”, and public or state schooling within the liberal democratic state in four parts: (i) Religion, culture, and the self within the liberal democratic state, (ii) Religion, culture, and the self in liberal democratic state schools, (iii) Religion and religious security within migrant communities, and (iv) resultant questions for thought and discussion.