

Paolo Costa, senior researcher at the Center for Religious Studies of the Bruno Kessler Foundation (Trento, Italy) and a three-time visiting fellow at the IWM, has just published a book (in Italian) – *La città post-secolare: il nuovo dibattito sulla secolarizzazione* (*The Post-secular City: The New Secularization Debate*) – where he has collected the results of a ten-year investigation into the new secularization debate.

Starting from the Iranian Revolution, the identification between modernity and the decline of religion has become, first, a questionable empirical fact and, second, the subject of a mounting contestation within the historical, sociological, theological and philosophical debates. In his book, Costa systematically reconstructs this change of atmosphere in the scientific community and interprets it as a true paradigm shift.

The volume consists of a long introduction where «secularization» is analyzed as a deeply problematic concept-of-process and of eight chapters in which several exemplary figures in the recent (i.e. post-1960s) debate are picked up and analyzed in depth. They are: H. Blumenberg, D. Martin, C. Taylor, H. Joas, T. Asad, M. Gauchet, J. Habermas, G. Vattimo. The book's conclusion is open, for it is uncertain whether the concept is still helpful to understand what is going on around us now and is in store for us in the near future.

With this book, scholars, students or people interested in the topic have at their disposal a map that can help them to orient themselves in one of the crucial debates of our age. The book is available in bookstores from 17 January 2019.

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[Secular\\_City\\_The\\_New\\_Secularization\\_Debate\\_-\\_Pr%C3%A9cis\\_of\\_a\\_Book](#)