



Modes of Secularism and Religious Responses IV

June 14-16, 2012

Venue: Palais Clam Gallas, Institut Francais de Autriche, Währingerstr. 30, 1090 Wien

Conference Program

Thursday, June 14

2:00pm **Welcome and Introduction**

Charles Taylor, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, McGill University, Montréal, and Permanent Fellow, IWM

2:30pm - 6:00pm **Session I: Intercivilizational Comparisons of the Trajectories of Secularization and Modernization**

Comparisons with India, China, and the Islamic world were central elements of the preceding conferences. These need to be taken further, but it would also be very illuminating to 'zoom in', as it were, and take account of some of the important differences between societies central to, or closely related to the 'West'. Above all, it is important to examine the recent developments in societies of Eastern (or Greek) orthodox religion.

Introductions: **Chris Hann**, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle

Slavica Jakelic, Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia

Moderator: **Kristina Stöckl**, APART Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Vienna, Political Science Department and Visiting Fellow, Robert Schuman Center of Advanced Studies, European University Institute

19:00 *Optional: group dinner at Plachutta, a typical Viennese restaurant. Transport will be provided.*

Friday, June 15

9:30am – 1:00pm **Session II: Religion and Violence**

Earlier discussion of religion and violence has focused on jihadism. This should be followed up by closer studies of other contexts in which religion has turned violent (or violence has recourse to religion).

Introductions: **Sudhir Kakar**, psychoanalyst and writer, Goa, India

David Martin, Professor emeritus of Sociology, London School of Economics

Moderator: **Faisal Devji**, Professor of History, Oxford University

1:00pm – 2:00pm Lunch break



2:00pm – 5:30pm **Session III: Secularity and Its Consequences for Social Science:
an Interdisciplinary Approach**

The issue of the nature of secularity merges with the vexed issue of how to study religion, one that affects sociology, political science and history. Some propose to explain religious phenomena with the methods of socio-biology; others propose a reduction to economic or political considerations, whereas a growing body of scholars insists that any reductive account will be inadequate.

Introductions: **Olivier Roy**, Professor of Social and Political Theory, European University Institute, Florence
Craig Calhoun, Professor of Social Sciences, New York University
Moderator: **Nilüfer Göle**, Director, Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Centre d'Analyse et d'Intervention Sociologiques (CADIS), Paris

7:00pm **Lecture: Beyond Toleration – at the IWM**

This takes place at the IWM. Transport will be provided.

Speaker: **Charles Taylor**, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, McGill University, Montréal, and Permanent Fellow, IWM
Commentator: **Akeel Bilgrami**, Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University

8:00pm Reception with buffet

Saturday, June 16

9:30am – 1:00pm **Session IV: Secularist Régimes in the West**

Being a crucial normative issue, the problem of defining the proper form of a secularist (laïque) régime will have to be dealt with in greater detail. In particular, the discussion should focus on legislation that is now being made or proposed in many Western societies concerning Muslim women's dress and other similar issues.

Introductions: **John Bowen**, Professor in Arts & Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis
Moderator: **Alessandro Ferrara**, Professor of Political Philosophy, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

1:00pm End of conference

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