



Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen
Institute for Human Sciences

Modes of Secularism and Religious Responses VI

12-14 June 2014, Vienna, Austria

Venue

University of Vienna, Sky Lounge, Oskar Morgenstern-Platz 1, 1090 Vienna

Conference Program

Thursday, June 12

2:00pm **Welcome and Introduction**

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

2:30pm - 6:00pm **Session I: Comparative European legal frameworks on immigration and religious pluralism**

This session draws on recent comparative work across Germany, France and the UK to study how different legal systems deal with the problems raised by immigration and legal pluralism. Perhaps surprisingly, judges across Western Europe (and across the differences of the Civil and Common Law traditions) work with a strikingly similar set of judicial 'building blocks', consisting of schemas, values, and constraints concerning the governance of religious and cultural differences. We propose that putative cross-national contrasts in legal frameworks are better understood as differential and often shifting weightings of these shared 'building blocks'.

Chair: **John Bowen**, Dunbar-Van Cleve Professor in Arts & Sciences, Department of Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis

Introductions: **Christophe Bertossi**, Director of the Centre for Migrations and Citizenship at the French Institute for International Relations (Ifri), Paris
Maleiha Malik, Professor in Law, King's College, London
Mathias Rohe, M.A., Chair of Civil Law, Private International Law and Comparative Law, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg; former Judge at the Court of Appeal

7:30pm Dinner hosted by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the International Organizations in Vienna
H. E. Mr. Mark E. Bailey, at his residence



Friday, June 13

9:30am - 1:00pm **Session II: Gender, sexuality and religion**

Many of the flashpoints of conflict over the secular are, in one way or another, about sex and sexuality: contraception, abortion, gay rights, women's rights, sex education, AIDS etc. Antisecularists in both Christian and Islamic contexts see Western styles of sexuality as indices of secular depravity, even though the secular is often conceived as rationalist and governmental rather than as a culture of embodiment. Does secularism always involve a culture of sexuality, as Joan Scott has argued regarding France? How have various religious traditions come to define themselves by opposition to that culture? What countertendencies, actual or imaginable, might reframe such antagonisms?

Chair: **Michael Warner**, Professor of English and American Studies, Yale University

Introductions: **Nilüfer Göle**, Professor of Sociology, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Centre d'etudes sociologiques et politiques Raymond Aron (CESPRA), Paris

Kathryn Lofton, Professor of Religious Studies, American Studies, History, Yale University

1:00pm – 2:00pm Lunch break, Restaurant Porzellan

2:00pm – 5:30pm **Session III: Eastern Orthodox churches and the challenges of secularization**

Orthodox Christian Churches in the contemporary world appear particularly challenged by the task to conceptualize their relationship with the state and society under conditions of political modernity and societal pluralism. It is an open question of debate whether this difficulty is due to the Byzantine (symphonic) legacy of Orthodox Christianity, to historical particularities of nation-state building processes in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, or to theology. What seems beyond question, however, is that theology today can play a major role in moving forward on the issue of church-state and church-society relations in Orthodox countries. In this session, we want to look at the particularities of the encounter between the Eastern Orthodox Churches and secularization in a cultural-historical and sociological perspective and we want to explore ways in which theologians in the Russian and Greek Orthodox context are confronting the challenges of secularization today.

Chair: **Kristina Stöckl**, Research Director Religious Traditionalisms and Politics, IWM; APART-Fellow, University of Vienna, Department of Political Sciences

Introductions: **Alexander Agadjanian**, Professor, Russian State Humanities University Moscow



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Pantelis Kalaitzidis, Director, Volos Academy for Theological Studies (Volos, Greece); Professor, Systematic Theology, Hellenic Open University (Patras, Greece)

Vasilios N. Makrides, Professor für Religionswissenschaft (Orthodoxes Christentum) an der Philosophischen Fakultät, Universität Erfurt, Germany

Fr. Vladimir Shmaliy, Archpriest, pro-rector of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius Postgraduate and Doctoral School of the Russian Orthodox Church, Moscow, Russian Federation

7:30pm **Conference Dinner**

Saturday, June 16

9:30am – 1:00pm **Session IV: A secular age outside the west**

This session will look at contrasts in the impact of secularization in societies outside the West, and the choices that it raises for these societies. Those studied include Indonesia, Pakistan, India, Egypt and Russia. The issues examined include that of comparative burdening: the fact that religions are differentially affected, some more than others, by the emergence of the modern state; and that of the different experiences of faith, which arise in these contexts.

Chair: **Mirjam Künkler**, Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Studies, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University

Introductions: **Gudrun Krämer**, Head of the Institute / Director of the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies (BGSMS) Berlin, Institute of Islamic Studies, Freie Universität Berlin

John Madeley, Departmental Tutor in the Department of Government, London School of Economics and Political Science

Shylashri Shankar, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, Delhi, India

Jonathan Wyrzten, Assistant Professor of Sociology and International Affairs at Yale University

1:00pm End of conference

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