



UCL

Negotiating Religion: Inquiries into the History and Present of Religious Accommodation

Wednesday 1 May 2013
at the Faculty of Laws, UCL

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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Throughout history, religious belief and religious affiliation have been powerful factors in shaping human societies. They have defined individual identities and communities, governed the relationship between commonwealths, and inspired human creativity. Religious visions, hopes and fears also stimulated conflict and unleashed violence. For an overwhelming and growing majority of people living on our planet today, religious belief answers questions central to their existence. It allows them to cope with difficult or decisive moments and structures everyday life. It seems that over the past generations, differences regarding the place and role of religious belief have grown considerably. In a world marked more than ever before by migration and global connectivity, societies which tend towards religious neutrality or indifference need to define anew their relationship to communities with strong religious commitments. In the past as well as today, the relationship between individual and community, between different confessions and religious communities, between these communities and the state, are negotiated in complex processes of moderation, sometimes involving conflict or even violence.

This conference is the closing event of a four-workshop series which took place at UCL in 2010-12. It offers a cross-disciplinary assessment of these different forms in which religious identity, commitment and community are negotiated in the contemporary world. Without claiming to exhaust the topic, it proposes to look at the agents, procedures and outcomes of these negotiations, and hopefully will evaluate the potentials and limits of negotiation of religion.

SUMMARY OF PAST WORKSHOPS IN THIS SERIES

The series discussed the relationship between religion and society in four areas of investigation.

The first workshop *Negotiating Religion: European Legacies, European Challenges* addressed the history of religious conflict and religious accommodation, gauged the impact of religious scepticism and secularization in Europe, and engaged a group of outstanding experts and the public in a discussion on the prospects for Religious Studies at UCL.

The second workshop *Accommodating Religious Communities in Contemporary Europe: Constitutional and Philosophical Dimensions* investigated both the tremendous impact of religious tradition and thought on contemporary constitutions and constitutional aspects in accommodating religious diversity.

The third workshop *Negotiating Religion in Urban Space* investigated the role of spatial integration of religious communities, documenting their intention to negotiate their insertion by spatial practices, such as processions, architecture, celebrations, festivals.

Because litigation is a privileged arena in attempting to limit or assert the status of religious communities, the fourth and final workshop *Legal Frameworks: Schools and Religious Freedom* explored the impact of legal arguments in shaping the relationship between religious communities and society.

Project outline and coordination:

Dr Claire Dwyer, Dr François Guesnet, Dr Myriam Hunter-Henin, Prof Cécile Laborde, Dr Robert Morris, Dr Uta Staiger

THE PROGRAMME

13:30 Registration and coffee

14:00 **Introduction**

Dr Myriam Hunter-Henin and Dr François Guesnet (UCL)

14:15 **Panel 1: From Historical Differences to an Age of Equality**

Chair: Dr François Guesnet

Discussant: Professor David d'Avray FBA (UCL)

Negotiating Religious Differences in Europe in the Wake of the Reformations

Professor Ben Kaplan (UCL)

Negotiating Religious Freedom in an Age of Equality: From Conflict to Cohesion

Speaker: Professor Maleiha Malik (KCL)

15:45 Break

16:15 **Panel 2: Negotiating with Religion in a Secular Age**

Chair: Dr Myriam Hunter-Henin

Discussant: Dr Ronan McCrea (UCL) & Dr George Letsas (UCL)

Protecting Freedom of Religion in the Secular Age

Professor Cécile Laborde (UCL)

Secularism without Disenchantment?

Professor Craig Calhoun (LSE)

17:45 **Conclusions**

18:00 Drinks reception

19:00 Conference ends

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Craig Calhoun is Director of the London School of Economics. He is a social scientist whose work connects sociology to culture, communication, politics, philosophy and economics. He took up his post on 1 September 2012, having left the United States where he was University Professor at New York University, director of the Institute for Public Knowledge, and President of the Social Science Research Council. He co-founded, with Richard Sennett, Professor of Sociology at LSE, the NYLON programme which brings together graduate students from New York and London for co-operative research programmes. He is the author of several books including *Nations Matter*, *Critical Social Theory*, *Neither Gods Nor Emperors* and most recently *The Roots of Radicalism* (University of Chicago Press, 2012).

Benjamin Kaplan specialises in the history of the Low Countries in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and in the religious history of early modern Europe. His research focuses on the practice of religious toleration and religious conflict in European history, trying to explain their causes, patterns, and forms. He has a particular interest in phenomena such as 'mixed' (interfaith) marriage, conversion, and the spatial accommodation of dissenting worship. Benjamin Kaplan's last book was *'Divided by Faith: Religious Conflict and the Practice of Toleration in Early Modern Europe'* (Harvard University Press). It was awarded a prize by the American Academy of Religion.

Cécile Laborde is Professor of Political Theory at University College London. She has published in the areas of secularism, republicanism and multiculturalism, theories of law and the state, and global justice. Her work has appeared in international journals of political philosophy. Recent books include *Critical Republicanism: The Hijab Controversy and Political Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2008), *Français, encore un effort pour être républicains* (Paris, Seuil, 2010), *Republicanism and Political Theory* (co-edited with John Maynor; Oxford Blackwell 2007) and *Pluralism and the State in Britain and France, 1900-1925* (Macmillan 2000). She is currently the Principal Investigator for a 5-year project funded by the European Research Council (ERC) entitled "Is Religion Special? Reformulating Secularism and Religion in Legal and Political Theory."

Maleiha Malik is Professor of Law, King's College London. She has written extensively on matters of sexual and racial equality and is the co-author of a leading text titled *Discrimination Law: Theory and Practice* (2008)

ABOUT THE CONVENORS

Claire Dywer is Co-Director of the Migration Research Unit in the Department of Geography. She is the co-editor of *Transnational Spaces* (2004) and *New Geographies of Race and Racism* (2008). Her current research focuses on the intersections of religion and migration through a research project 'Faith in Suburbia' based in London and Vancouver.

Myriam Hunter-Henin is a Senior Lecturer at University College London and co-Director of the Institute of Global Law. Her work focuses, in a comparative perspective, on the interaction of Human Rights and Religion.. Her latest edited book, *Law, Religious Freedoms and Education in Europe* was published with Ashgate in February 2012 and her latest article, 'Why the French Don't like the Burqa: Laïcité, National Identity and Religious Freedom', was published in *International Comparative Law Quarterly* in July 2012 and will be the basis for the annual 2013 ICLQ lecture.

François Guesnet is Sidney and Elizabeth Corob Reader in Modern Jewish History at the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies at UCL. He specializes in the history of East European Jewish communities.

Cécile Laborde is Professor of Political Theory, University College London. She is the author of *Critical Republicanism. The Hijab Controversy and Political Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

Robert Morris is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the Constitution Unit, UCL. A former Home Office civil servant, he is interested in the constitutional politics of religion. Amongst his writings is *Church and State in 21st Century Britain: The Future of Church Establishment* (Palgrave, 2009).

Uta Staiger (PhD Cantab., FRSA) is Deputy Director of the UCL European Institute, whose set-up she has been overseeing since the Institute's creation in 2010. Her research and teaching is on the history of European integration, particularly its cultural politics, and European cultural and political thought.

ABOUT THE DISCUSSANTS

Prof David d'Avray, FBA, has worked on medieval marriage, on preaching, on attitudes to kingship and death, and on rationalities. He is currently working on royal annulments and papal dispensations, instrumental ethics in the Middle Ages, and 'longue durée' structures of papal history, from the 4th century decretal legislation *Congregatio Concilii* after Trent. Most recently, David d'Avray published *'Medieval Religious Rationalities: a Weberian Analysis'* (Cambridge, 2010) and *'Rationalities in History: a Weberian Essay in Comparison'* (Cambridge, 2010).

George Letsas joined the Faculty as Lecturer in Laws in 2006 and was promoted to Reader in 2009. Dr Letsas is currently the Co-Director of the UCL Institute for Human Rights and Co-Editor (with John Tasioulas) of UCL's Quain Lecture Series in Jurisprudence, published by Oxford University Press. Dr Letsas' main research interests are in jurisprudence and human rights with particular emphasis on the philosophy of human rights, the interpretation of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), proportionality and the margin of appreciation, theory of European law, philosophical foundations of contract law, theory of private law, and the philosophy of conventions. He is the author of *A Theory of Interpretation of the European Convention on Human Rights*, Oxford University Press (2007). Paperback edition with new Preface, Oxford University Press (2009).

Ronan McCrea lectures in the Faculty of Laws at UCL and is the author of *Religion and the Public Order of the European Union* (OUP, 2010). He is a former référendaire in the Chambers of Advocate General Poiares Maduro in the ECJ. He was called to the Bar in 2003 is currently acting on cases relating to freedom of religion before the European Court of Human Rights.

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Fees:

Standard Ticket = £30

Academic Ticket (non-UCL) = £10

Student Ticket (non-UCL) = £10

UCL Staff and Students = Free of charge

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