

ICLARS
INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR LAW AND RELIGION STUDIES
PALERMO, 1-3 SEPTEMBER 2026

INDIVIDUAL PAPERS ACCEPTED

Proponent: Roxan Laubscher and Nicole Deokiram
Institution: University of Johannesburg - Associate Professor
Title: *The protection against unfair discrimination and automatic unfair dismissals of employees based on religion in the South African workplace*

Proponent: Matthias Inniger
Institution: Extraordinary Researcher North-West University, South Africa
Title: *The role of the State in inter-religious dialogue from a Swiss perspective*

Proponent: René Pahud de Mortanges
Institution: University of Fribourg/Switzerland, Full Professor
Title: *The difficult relationship between state neutrality and cooperation in Switzerland*

Proponent: Myriam Hunter-Henin
Institution: University College London, Professor of Law & Religion and Comparative Law
Title: *Neutrality and Religious Freedom in Secularist Separatist States: Paths for reconnections and collaboration*

Proponent: Arif Jamal
Institution: National University of Singapore/Assoc Professor
Title: *Constitutional Form in Islamic Law: the Case of Ismaili Law*

Proponent: Brandon Taylorian
Institution: Research Associate at the University of Lancashire
Title: *Overseeing God: State Substitution, Co-optation and Infiltration of Religious Organisations Using Regulatory Bodies*

Proponent: Michael J. Broyde
Institution: Emory University School of Law, Professor of Law and Berman Projects Director, Center for the Study of Law and Religion
Title: *Religious Marriages without Civil Recognition: Neutrality, Cooperation, and the Boundaries of State Regulation*

Proponent: Nilay Saiya

Institution: Nanyang Technological University
Title: *Christian Nationalism's Impact on Global Democracy: A Quantitative Analysis*

Proponent: Ahmed Salisu Garba
Institution: Sa'adu Zungur University, Bauchi
Title: *Sacred Censors or Secular Sentinels? Rethinking the Heckler's Veto and the Right to Offend in Nigeria's Religio-Political Arena*

Proponent: Werner Nicolaas Nel
Institution: University of Johannesburg, Senior Lecturer
Title: *A hypothesis on privacy as a neutrality principle in interpreting forb and defining the limits of law in South Africa*

Proponent: José Pablo Sánchez Cardona
Institution: University of Notre Dame Law School, LL.M Student
Title: *Reflections on Mexican Laicism*

Proponent: Wendy Chinonyerem Benaiah
Institution: Recent graduate of The Pan-African University Institute of Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences, Cameroon
Title: *Faith-Inspired Initiatives and the UN SDGs: Opportunities and Challenges for State Neutrality in Nigeria*

Proponent: Rabbi Dr. Fishel Szlajen
Institution: University of Buenos Aires
Title: *Religious Identity and the Adoption Process: balancing religious freedom with the best interests of the child*

Proponent: Jay Wexler
Institution: Professor of Law and Michaels Faculty Research Scholar, Boston University School of Law
Title: *Buddhism and the State in Bhutan: A Challenge to Prevailing Conceptions of Church-State Relations*

Proponent: Caetano Dias Correa
Institution: Associate Professor at Federal University of Santa Catarina (Brazil)
Title: *From Freedom to Equality of Religion or Belief: Questions About the Presence of Religious Symbols and Celebrations in Public Schools in Brazil*

Proponent: Fabio Ferreira Nascimento
Institution: Lusophone Alliance for Religious Freedom - President

Title: *Mediación de la intolerancia religiosa en los lugares de trabajo corporativos: el papel legal y estratégico de los grupos de recursos para empleados con orientación religiosa en las empresas Fortune 500*

Proponent: Ekaterine Chitanava

Institution: Director of Tolerance and Diversity Institute in Georgia, Member of OSCE/ODIHR Panel on FoRB

Title: *Examining Freedom of Religion or Belief in Georgian Public Schools*

Proponent: Renae Barker

Institution: University of Western Australia

Title: *Neutral to Exclusive: Mapping the Use of Religious Terms in Australian Legislation*

Proponent: Balázs Schanda

Institution: Pázmány Péter Catholic University

Title: *The Tax Assignment System In Hungary—an Inclusive System for Funding Religious Communities*

Proponent: Karolina Racziewicz

Institution: Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, University of Warsaw, Poland, PhD candidate

Title: *Illicit Sexual Intercourse (Zinā): Between Islamic Jurisprudence and Contemporary Family Relations*

Proponent: Ramazan Akkir

Institution: Tekirdag Namik Kemal University/ Faculty of Theology / Assoc. Prof. Dr.

Title: *The Exclusionary Application of Secularism and Aggressive Discourses Against Religions: The Turkiye Case*

Proponent: M^a Rosa García Vilardell

Institution: Profesora Titular Derecho Eclesiástico del Estado Universidad CEU Cardenal Herrera

Title: *Inteligencia Artificial, libertad de conciencia y menor de edad: la necesidad de una cláusula de intangibilidad frente al adoctrinamiento invisible*

Proponent: Karolina Racziewicz

Institution: PhD student, Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, University of Warsaw, Poland

Title: *Illicit Sexual Intercourse (Zinā): Between Islamic Jurisprudence and Contemporary Family Relations*

Proponent: Guy Baldwin

Institution: University of Manchester, Lecturer in Law

Title: *Separation of Religion and State in Japan and the United States*

Proponent: Noelia Martínez-Doallo
Institution: University of A Coruna
Title: *State Neutrality in the Digital Age: Religious Freedom Across a Spectrum of Connectivity and Control*

Proponent: Mathias Rohe
Institution: Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Chairholder
Title: *Accommodating Muslim minorities in Germany: Legal framework, practical obstacles, experiences from two decades*

Proponent: Marcio Henrique Pereira Ponzilacqua
Institution: Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Chairholder
Title: *Estado, Derecho y Religión en América Latina: Desafíos Sociojurídicos Actuales (2023-6)*

Proponent: Maria Chiara Marullo
Institution: Universitat Jaume I
Title: *Public Policy Limits and the Protection of Religious Freedom for Refugees in Private International Law*

Proponent: Núria Reguart-Segarra
Institution: Universitat Jaume I, Lecturer in Law and Religion
Title: *Legal Reflections of State Neutrality on the Spanish Marriage System: Protecting Religious Marriage Without Discrimination?*

Proponent: Fábio Carvalho Leite
Institution: Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro / Associate Professor
Title: *Freedom of religious expression and its limits in Brazil*

Proponent: Fatih Öztürk
Institution: Faculty of Law, Istanbul University/associate professor
Title: *Offensive Public Speech Against Religions in Türkiye*

Proponent: Fearghas Ó Béara
Institution: European Parliament, Head of Liaison Office in Ireland
Title: *Advancing the agenda of Freedom of Religion or Belief in the European public service*

Proponent: Maëlle Comte
Institution: UNIVERSITE SAINT-ETIENNE JEAN MONNET
Title: *Religious Symbols in the Public Sphere: A Comparative Overview*

Proponent: Romain Mertens

Institution: University of Namur (Belgium) - Postdoctoral researcher and associate lecturer

Title: *Balancing state neutrality and dialogue between public authorities and religious organizations: insights from Belgium*

Proponent: Gregory Mose

Institution: The American College of the Mediterranean

Title: *Beyond Identity-Based Persecution: Denial of Religious Practice as a Crime Against Humanity*

Proponents: Amélie Barras, Andrea Paras

Institution: York University / University of Guelph

Title: *Canadian Catholic Healthcare at the Nexus of Multiple Legal Regimes*

Proponents: Elena García, Antón Palacios

Institution: Universidad REY JUAN CARLOS. Profesor ayudante Doctor

Title: *La diversidad sexual y la identidad de género en el sistema educativo: disputas por el sentido de la neutralidad ideológica y religiosa en Estados Unidos y España*

Proponent: Simeon O. Ilesanmi

Institution: Wake Forest University

Title: *State Neutrality or State Overreach? A FoRB Analysis of Niger's State Sermon-Vetting Regime (Nigeria)*

Proponent: Nigel Fancourt

Institution: University of Oxford

Title: *Judicial pedagogies in the UK: The OCP test and (non)religious development*

Proponent: Kacper Szewczyk

Institution: University of Warsaw - PhD candidate

Title: *Reasonable accommodation of religion: a remedy or a pathway to discrimination?*

Proponent: Barbara A. McGraw

Institution: Center for Engaged Religious Pluralism, Saint Mary's College of California

Title: *State Neutrality is Not Neutral: From Entrenched Cultural Bias to Religious Liberty for All*

Proponent: Ariel J. Liberman

Institution: Assistant Professor of Law and Legal Studies, Auburn University (USA); Senior Fellow, Emory University Center for the Study of Law and Religion

Title: *The State's Role in Contending with Antisemitic Hate in American Primary and Secondary Public Schools*

Proponent: Evaldo Xavier Gomes
Institution: Faculdade de São Bento de São Paulo
Title: *La religione e il BRICS*

Proponent: Tadeusz J. Zielinski
Institution: Chrześcijańska Akademia Teologiczna w Warszawie / Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw, Poland; Professor
Title: *Fern Flower? Questioning the principle of religious neutrality of the state in law, jurisprudence, and legal doctrine in Poland*

Proponent: Gerardo Villari
Institution: Università degli Studi di Salerno - Dottorando
Title: *La cooperazione internazionale post-globale: Il ruolo della diplomazia religiosa*

Proponent: Cecilia Palomo
Institution: President of the Mexican Bar Association in Aguascalientes
Title: *Between Autonomy and Due Diligence: How the ECtHR and IACtHR Define State Duties Toward Women in Religious Contexts*

Proponent: Mohamed Saeed Eltayeb
Institution: Qatari Ministry of Labor (kindly noted I will be participated in my personal capacity)
Title: *Between Faith and Neutrality: Rethinking State-Religion Relations in Muslim Majority Countries*

Proponent: Louis-Leon Christians
Institution: Université catholique de Louvain
Title: *Spirituality, Management and Law: New Dialogue*
Abstract:

While certain religious symbols appear to be problematic in some firms, others emphasise the positive nature of taking the spiritual dimensions of existence into account for a better management. What are the legal guarantees and judicial protection with regard to this development?

Proponent: Dimitry Gegenava
Institution: Professor, Vice Rector, Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University
Title: *Places of Worship, Equality, and Property Disputes in Georgia*

Proponent: Anastasía Assimakópulos
Institution: Facultad de Derecho, Universidad de los Andes, Chile, Associate Professor
Title: *Estado laico, estallido social y reconstrucción de templos vandalizados en Chile*

Proponent: Emanuel Tavala
Institution: Law Faculty/Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu
Title: *The chimera of state neutrality in the Romanian context*

Proponent: Eugene K B Tan
Institution: Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University | Associate Professor of Law
Title: *Managing Religious Pluralism in Singapore: Making a Virtue Out of Differences*

Proponent: George Androutsopoulos
Institution: National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, School of Law / Associate Professor of Ecclesiastical Law, Director of the University Laboratory of Ecclesiastical Law and Church – State Relations
Title: *The new legal framework of freedom of worship in Greece (art. 23-30, 62 and 64 Law 5224/2025)*

Proponent: Inês Granja
Institution: Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Porto) - Researcher
Title: *Governance of Religious Diversity in Portugal: Emerging Local Practices*

Proponent: Alessandra Lazzarini
Institution: University of Padua, PhD student
Title: *The Missing Balance: Academic Freedom, Religious Identity and Proportionality Before the ECtHR*

Proponent: Vanja-Ivan Savić
Institution: Catholic University of Croatia; Professor of Law and Religion
Title: *'Attack' on 'Unum Baptisatum, semper Baptisatum': churches under threat by european privacy laws*

Proponent: Durali Karacan & Fatih Baş
Institution: Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Türkiye; Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Türkiye
Title: *A Socio-Psychological Examination of the Religious Symbols in the Public Space in Türkiye: An Identity Process Theory Approach*

Proponent: Mercedes Guadalupe Rubino
Institution: Pontificia Universidad Católica Santa María de los Buenos Aires
Title: *Libertad religiosa y menores. El caso del instituto de la adopción en la legislación y jurisprudencia americana.*

Proponent: Oscar Díaz Muñoz

Institution: Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú
Title: *Freedom of Expression and Offenses Against Religion*

Proponent: Efrén CHÁVEZ-HERNÁNDEZ (autor principal) y Edgar FLORES-CALDAS (coautor)
Institution: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Académico de Tiempo Completo
Title: *La libertad de religión o creencias y la seguridad pública; Dificultades, retos y perspectivas para los ministros religiosos en México y Perú en tiempos de violencia*

Proponent: Burkhard Berkmann
Institution: Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Full Professor
Title: *Concordats as a means of cooperation: Does the ECtHR consider them neutral or discriminatory?*

Proponent: Ciravegna Monia
Institution: Università degli Studi di Torino
Title: *Il confine della neutralità: la gestione dei messaggi a contenuto (a)religioso sui mezzi di trasporto pubblico locale e nelle pubbliche affissioni in comparazione tra Stati Uniti e Italia*

Proponent: Piotr Szymaniec
Institution: Angelus Silesius University of Applied Sciences, Wałbrzych, Poland/ university professor
Title: *Criminalization of "blasphemy" in Poland after the ECtHR judgment *Rabczewska v. Poland* (2022)*

Proponent: Kevin Lee
Institution: North Carolina Central University School of Law (Professor)
Title: *Algorithmic Secularism: Why the "Principled Distance" of Cooperationist States is Better Suited for AI Regulation than Strict Neutrality*

Proponent: Paola Spikes
Institution: Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) / PhD student
Title: *Religious Symbols, Cultural Heritage, and "Laicidade à Brasileira": The Brazilian Supreme Court's Paradox*

Proponent: Betül Yakar Yılmaz
Institution: Necmettin Erbakan University-research assistant
Title: *The Legal Transformation of the Roman Empire: From Paganism to Christianity*

Proponent: Blair Major
Institution: Associate Professor of Law, Thompson Rivers University
Title: *Reframing Religious Neutrality: Human Dignity, Religion, and the Right to Education*

Proponent: Reyhan ERDOĞDU BAŞARAN
Institution: Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University Assistant Professor
Title: *The Role of the Murshidiyya Movement in Twentieth-Century Syrian Politics*

Proponent: Zehra Betül Dindaroğlu
Institution: RTE University, Research Assistant
Title: *Between Religious Legitimacy and Legal Recognition: Informal Marriages in Türkiye and Malaysia*

Proponent: Dia Dabby
Institution: Associate Professor, Département des sciences juridiques, UQAM
Title: *State neutrality and laïcité in Québec in the eyes of social actors: an empirical study*

Proponent: Dia Dabby
Institution: Associate Professor, Département des sciences juridiques, UQAM
Title: *The Political Tides of Neutrality: A media analysis of religion, laïcité and neutrality in a Québec (Canada) public school*

Proponent: Gabriela Siqueira Ho
Institution: School of Law of Ribeirão Preto, University of São Paulo - FDRP/USP. Master's student in Law, with a FAPESP scholarship, process no. 2024/13299-9, supervised by Associate Professor Marcio Henrique Pereira Ponzilacqua, Post-Doctoral Fellow at FDRP/USP.
Title: *Religion and Ecology: Pathways to Sustainability in the Context of the COP 30 Climate Negotiations*

Proponent: Thalita Angélica Gomes Borges
Institution: Faculty of Law, University of São Paulo – Ribeirão Preto- São Paulo -Brazil, Doctoral Student advised by Professor Márcio Henrique Pereira Ponzilacqua. The researcher is also affiliated to the São Paulo Research Foundation (Process No. 2025/15752-5).
Title: *A Scoping Review on the Use of the Term “Reasonable Accommodation” by the Brazilian Supreme Federal Court in the Context of Religious Freedom*

Proponent: Fabiola Vergara
Institution: U. de Talca/ profesora asistente
Title: *Personas jurídicas derivadas como instrumento de cooperación*

Proponent: Jamlat Gvidiani
Institution: Sulkhani-Saba Orbeliani University (Georgia); Davit Batonishvili Institute of Law

Title: *Legal Vacuums in the Protection of Sacred Objects and Places of Worship: Populist Political Exploitation in Georgia*

Proponent: Qudsia Mirza

Institution: University of East London

Title: *Intersectional Justice and the Unfulfilled Promise of the UK Equality Act 2010*

Proponent: Zehra Betül Dindaroğlu & Miyase Yavuz Altıntaş

Institution: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University, Research Assistant Dr.

Title: *Between Religious Legitimacy and Legal Recognition: Informal Marriages in Türkiye and Malaysia*

Proponent: Oliwia Rybczyńska-Gryguc

Institution: University of Warsaw, PhD Candidate

Title: *Protecting Freedom of Religion or Belief Without Blind Spots: The Case of the Non-Religious Organisations*

Proponent: Ronald Serwanga

Institution: East Africa Law Society (EALS), Research and publication Committee Member

Title: *Weaponizing Public Morals: The Fallacy of Secular Protection*

Proponent: Bruce J. Clemenger

Institution: Director of Legal Affairs - The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, doctoral studies - The Institute for Christian Studies (Toronto)

Title: *The Myth of State Neutrality, Political Creeds and Religious Freedom: The not so neutral influence of state neutrality on Canadian law and public policy*

Proponent: Felipe Carvalho

Institution: University of Coimbra, Postdoctoral Researcher

Title: *Religious Freedom in [Times of] Crisis: Reassessing the balance between separation and cooperation*

Proponent: Daniel J. Bator

Institution: University of Warsaw, PhD Candidate

Title: *Interfaith coalitions in Poland: Can Christian minorities make a difference?*

Proponent: María Blanco Fernández

Institution: Universidad de Navarra

Title: *Derechos de las minorías religiosas en España a finales del s. XX*

Proponent: Mukami Wangai

Institution: Strathmore University Law School, Doctoral Fellow

Title: *State Recognition and Regulation of Religious Groups in Kenya Using Democratic Principles*

Proponent: Badrinath K. Rao

Institution: Kettering University, Associate Professor, Sociology and Asian Studies

Title: *Faith, Freedom, and Fairness: The Antinomies of Religious Jurisprudence in India*

Proponent: Eva Nyambura Maina

Institution: Strathmore University

Title: *Hits and the Misses of the draft Religious Organisations Bill, 2024 - Kenya*

Proponent: Nuran Kizmaz Öztürk

Institution: Bayburt University

Title: *Plaza Mosques: The Spatial and Sociological Transformation of Worship Spaces in the Process of Modern Urbanization*

Proponent: Dwight Newman

Institution: University of Saskatchewan - Professor of Law and Canada Research Chair in Rights, Communities, and Constitutional Law

Title: *Government-Supported Denominational and Faith-Based Schools: The Saskatchewan Example*

Proponent: Adina Portaru

Institution: ADF International, Senior Counsel

Title: *The Digital Services Act: Friend or Foe to Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion?*

Proponent: Paola Spikes

Institution: Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio); PhD student

Title: *Evangelical Proselytism in Brazilian Schools and Universities: Constitutional Limits to Safeguard Neutrality and Religious Pluralism*

Proponent: Laurentiu Tanase

Institution: University of Bucharest - Senior Lecturer PhD, Romanian Academy, researcher ICCV

Title: *Religious Pluralism and Freedom of Belief in Romania: Twenty Years of the Law on Religious Denominations 2006-2026*

Proponent: Mark Emerton

Institution: City St Georges University, London. Position: Hon Visiting Professor of Law

Title: *Freedom of Religion or Belief in the British workplace: Has the definition of “belief” under discrimination and human rights law become too broad?*

Proponent: Mark Modak-Truran
Institution: Mississippi College School of Law, Professor of Law
Title: *Religious Preferentialism and the Conservative Catholic U.S. Supreme Court*

Proponent: Ana María Celis Brunet
Institution: Prof. Facultad Derecho, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
Title: *La cancelación de la personalidad jurídica de organizaciones religiosas: la dramática realidad de Nicaragua*

Proponent: Andrew DeLoach
Institution: Trinity Law School; Associate Professor, Director of Center for Human Rights
Title: *Coerced Religious Neutrality and the Recovery of Freedom*

Proponent: Perry Dane
Institution: Rutgers Law School, Professor of Law
Title: *Principles and Modesty in a Polarized Age*

Proponent: Almeida Machava and Tomas Chirindza
Institution: University of Macau, Research Assistant Professor
Title: *State Religious Neutrality and Freedom of Religion in Mozambique: the role of government authorities in congregations' internal conflicts*

Proponent: Li-ann Thio
Institution: Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore
Title: *Navigating Past the Scylla of Secular Fundamentalism and the Charybdis of Religious Preferentialism: The Promise of Cooperative State-Religion Models*

Proponent: Sofie Aaltonen
Institution: PhD Fellow
Title: *The law governing relations between the State and religion: majorities and minorities*

Proponent: Sophie van Bijsterveld
Institution: Professor of Religion, Law, and Society, Radboud University, the Netherlands
Title: *The State as 'Neutral Organiser of Religions'*

Proponent: Keith Thompson
Institution: Professor at Notre Dame University of Sidney
Title: *The Religious Liberty rules have not changed?*

Proponent: Oltion

Institution: University College Beder

Title: *The role of the State in inter-religious dialogue*

Proponent: M^a Teresa García-Berrio Hernández

Institution: PhD. University Associate Professor in Jurisprudence at Complutense University of Madrid

Title: *LA, neutralidad estatal y censura invisible: Libertad religiosa en el espacio público digital ante la moderación algorítmica*