

**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<sup>a</sup> 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:** Institution: Universidade de São Paulo/ University of São Paulo (Brazil)/FAPESP  
**Title:** *State, Law and Religion in Latin America: Current Socio-Legal Challenges (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:** Chrzescijanska 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, Sulkhani-Saba Orbeliani University  
**Title:** *Places of Worship, Equality, and Property Disputes in Georgia*

**Proponent:** Anastasia Assimakopoulos  
**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 Baptistatum, semper Baptistatum': 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<sup>a</sup> 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*

**Proponent:** Martina Del Priore

**Institution:** Sapienza Università di Roma

**Title:** *La libertà religiosa nei regimi penitenziari speciali: tra sicurezza e tutela dei diritti*