

Call For Papers

The Journal of Law, Religion and State - International Conference

Religious Violence and Extremism

28-30 May 2018

In recent years, religious violence and extremism have become an increasingly present phenomenon on the public stage, not only growing in impact, but also spreading to many new parts of the world. In this conference, we seek to discuss these phenomena from a variety of legal perspectives, considering the role of law, religion and state both in facilitating violence and extremism and countering it as well.

Our intention is to explore the legal origins and consequences of these phenomena in a broad sense, assessing not only state law and religious law, but also the social conditions and goals that the law reflects or emerges in response to. Moreover, we also hope to consider the concept of religious extremism not simply as attendant to violence, but also as its own independent phenomenon with which the state must contend. Here are some of the topics we invite participants to address:

- Analysis of religious violence and extremism (the phenomena in general and specific incidents as well)
- Definition and classification of both religious violence and religious extremism
- What is the relationship between religious freedom and religious extremism?
- Does religious extremism justify restrictions on religious freedom (education, expression or association) and how does/should the state conceptualize principled limitations on religious freedom in light of religious extremism?
- How should we distinguish between a deeply religious lifestyle and extremist religious activity?
- What are the (legal) measures states should take against radicalization of religion, and in what cases? (e.g., avoiding support, cancellation of tax exemptions, banning/criminalizing certain activities)
- How can the state manage conflicts—and provide political resolutions—at holy sites that serve, at times, as loci for both religious fervour and religious extremism?

- Can law, the state and/or religious leaders and institutions leverage the resources within various faith traditions to respond to religious extremism and violence? If yes, then: how should this be done?
- Should the law and the state treat religiously-motivated crimes in a different way than other crimes?
- What are the interpretive strategies religions take (or should take) in order to void radicalization and how can they impact the legal and political strategies of the state?

The conference will be held at Bar-Ilan University Faculty of Law, Ramat-Gan, Israel, from the late afternoon of Monday, 28 May 2018 until the late afternoon of Wednesday, 30 May 2018.

We encourage academic scholars from all parts of the world and from diverse religious backgrounds to submit proposals on the topics outlined above, and similar topics as well.

An abstract of 500 (max.) words should be sent to jlrs@biu.ac.il no later than November 10, 2017. Please indicate academic affiliation and attach a CV. The conference committee will review all submissions and notify applicants of papers of its decisions by Friday, 15 December 2017. The participants will be required to submit a first (full) draft of their papers at least four weeks before the conference so as to enable all participants to prepare for the conference discussions.

All participants will be provided three days of hotel accommodation and board during the conference.

After the conference, participants will have the opportunity to revise and finalize their papers in order to submit them for publication in JLRS. The articles will be published in the Journal of Law Religion and State subject to blind peer review.

The organizing committee:

Prof. Zvi Zohar, Faculty of Law, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

Prof. Rex Tauati Ahdar, Faculty of Law, Otago University, New Zealand

Dr. Haim Shapira, Faculty of Law, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

Prof. Michael Helfand, Faculty of Law, Pepperdine University, USA

JLRS website: <http://www.brill.com/publications/journals/journal-law-religion-and-state>