

ECPR Standing Group Religion & Politics

Newsletter #21 (November 2012)

Welcome to the 21st issue of the newsletter of the ECPR Standing Group, Religion & Politics. The Standing Group was founded nearly seven years ago, in February 2006. The newsletter . which appears three times a year (March, July and November) . is circulated to over 250 subscribers around the world, mainly but not exclusively in Europe. I do hope that you find it useful. *If you have suggestions for improvement, please let me know.*

I am always keen to receive more contributions for the newsletter from standing group members. So, remember: if you have anything noteworthy or newsworthy that you would like to impart to other group members, please let me know.

If you would like an item to be included in the next issue (#22, March 2013), please email it to me (jeff.haynes@londonmet.ac.uk) **no later than 28 February 2013.**

Issue #21 is divided into three sections:

(1) Conferences, Meetings, Research Projects

(2) Publications

(3) Miscellaneous

Until next time!

Jeff

(Jeffrey Haynes, convenor, ECPR Standing Group, Religion & Politics)

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(1) CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, RESEARCH PROJECTS

WITNESS SEMINAR: 'THE COLD WAR CHALLENGE TO THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES'

Thursday, 29 November, 2012, 1 pm – 4 pm.

Place: Room CM238, Aldgate Campus, London Metropolitan University, Goulston Street, London E1 7TP.

The Faculty of Law, Governance and International Relations, London Metropolitan University, the School of History, University of Ulster and the Institute of Contemporary British History (ICBH), King's College London, are jointly organising a seminar on: 'The Cold War Challenge to the Christian Churches'. The event will be held in Room CM238, Aldgate Campus, Goulston Street, London Metropolitan University, London E1 7TP on Thursday 29 November 2012.

The seminar will bring together a panel of Christian activists involved in different capacities with the problems of the churches and East-West relations going back to the 1960s. In particular, the panelists possess critical insights into two significant institutional responses to the Cold War challenge to the Christian Church, the British Council of Churches' East-West Relations Advisory Committee and the Centre for the Study of Religion and Communism (later Keston Institute).

Panel Participants:

- The Very Rev Canon Dr John Arnold, Dean Emeritus of Durham
- The Very Rev Canon Dr Michael Bourdeaux, founder of Keston College
- Xenia Dennen, Chairman of the Keston Institute
- The Very Rev Canon Dr Paul Oestreicher, former vice president CND

The seminar will take the form of an interactive group interview, introduced by Professor Jeff Haynes and chaired by Dr Dianne Kirby, the UK co-ordinator of the research project 'Christian World Community and the Cold War' for which the seminar is the first event to be held in Britain. It is intended that the oral history interviews and historical analysis will help us to better understand the extent to which the Cold War was a religio-political enterprise that confronted the churches with profound challenges on a number of levels that are now attracting serious attention from Cold War scholars.

For further information contact Dianne Kirby, (d.kirby@ulster.ac.uk, or + 44 (0)2871 375285)

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Essays in Anarchism and Religion

A book to be edited by [Alexandre Christoyannopoulos](#) and [Matthew Adams](#) and submitted to an *open access* academic publisher.

Anarchism and religion have long had an uneasy relationship. On the one hand, many anarchists insist that religion is fundamentally incompatible with anarchism, recalling that anarchism calls for 'no gods, no masters' pointing to the many cases of collaboration between religious and political elites in oppressing and deluding the masses, arguing that religious belief is superstitious, and so on. On the other hand, some religious/spiritual anarchists insist that their religious/spiritual tradition cannot but lead to a rejection of the state, care for the downtrodden, and quest for a more just society. Despite, indeed sometimes because of, the acceptance of a god as 'master.'

A number of recent publications both in religious and anarchist studies have focused on religious anarchism, but consideration of their compatibility in the first place has been rarer. The aim of this edited book is to explore critically and frankly the relationship and tensions between these two notions. The collection will build on the successful stream exploring the topic convened for the [Anarchist Studies Network](#) Conference held at Loughborough University in September 2012. Authors of papers presented at the stream are invited to submit their manuscripts, but the call is also open to authors who did not attend the conference, yet wish to submit a manuscript for consideration.

Proposals are encouraged from sceptical as well as sympathetic perspectives, the aim being to foster critical discussion. In line with the panel themes at the conference, areas of focus could include: anarchist encounters with religion, anarchist Biblical studies, anarchist theology, anarchism/religion parallels, religious and anarchist philosophers/philosophy, and spiritual anarchism.

Questions that may be addressed include (but are not necessarily restricted to):

- Is rejection of religion (and/or spirituality) a *sine qua non* of anarchism?
- What do we mean by religion, spirituality and anarchism when considering their relation?
- What is unacceptable to anarchism about religion/spirituality, and to religion/spirituality about anarchism?
- Are some religious/spiritual traditions inherently more compatible with anarchism than others?
- Why do religious institutions tend to move away from the often radical intentions of their original prophets and founders? How does this compare to non-religious institutions?
- What explains differences in the reception of religious/spiritual anarchism across different contexts?
- To what extent can religious/spiritual anarchists' deification of religious/spiritual notions (such as God) be compared to non-religious anarchists' deification of secular notions (such as freedom or equality)?
- What role do (and can) religious/spiritual anarchists play in the wider anarchist movement, and in their wider religious/spiritual tradition?
- What can religion/spirituality and anarchism learn from one another's history and ideas?
- Is religious/spiritual anarchism really anarchist? Is it really religious/spiritual?

Full details at: <http://anarchist-studies-network.org.uk/CfpEssaysOnAnarchismAndReligion>

CALL FOR PAPERS: INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

Religion, Law and Policy Making: European Norms and National Practices in Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation

Date: 13-14 June 2013

Site: Tartu, Estonia

Organizer: Center for EU-Russia Studies (CEURUS), University of Tartu, Estonia

Topics: The goal of the Workshop is to advance the multidisciplinary study of the processes- cultural, economic, political, and legal- of European integration related to the patterns of interaction among religion, policies and law in post-communist countries of Eastern Europe.

The complex interplay among European and national law, and law, policy and religion at the levels of nation and European Union is approached from jurisprudential, religious, sociological, cultural, historical, and political (comparative politics, political theory, IR) perspectives.

Language: English

Deadline: 11 February 2013. Abstracts of 300-600 words as well as a short bio (100 words) should be sent to: <alar.kilp@ut.ee>.

Contact: Dr. Alar Kilp (University of Tartu); Prof. Jerry G. Pankhurst (Wittenberg University, USA); Prof. William B. Simons (University of Tartu).

E-mail: alar.kilp@ut.ee; jpankhurst@wittenberg.edu; william.simons@ut.ee

Internet: <http://ceurus.ut.ee/conferences/call-for-papers-religion-and-politics-workshop/>

2013 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY (ISPP)

Save the date! The 2013 Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) will be held in Israel this summer (July 8-11, 2013). The ISPP conference is the premier international conference of note in the field of political psychology. This year, we are hoping to attract panels and papers on the psychological underpinnings of the relationship between religion and politics, among other relevant topics. See call for papers:

http://www.ispp.org/uploads/attachments/ISPP_2013_call_for_papers_-_final.pdf

Further details from: Pazit Ben-Nun Bloom, Lecturer (Assistant Professor), Department of Political Science, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus, 91905, Jerusalem, Israel Office: (972)-2-5883162

<http://www.sinc.stonybrook.edu/Stu/pbennun/>

(2) PUBLICATIONS

Books

(1) **Jonathan Fox**, *An Introduction to Religion and Politics. Theory and Practice* (London: Routledge, 2012) (see pdf flyer with this newsletter for full details and 20% discount order form)

(2) **Ioannis Grigoriadis**, *Instilling Religion in Greek and Turkish Nationalism: A "Sacred Synthesis"* (London: Macmillan, 2012)

The first comparative study to examine the role of religion in the formation of Greek and Turkish nationalisms, this book argues that the shift to an increasingly religious paradigm in both countries can be explained in terms of the exigencies of consolidation and the need to appeal to grassroots elements and account for diversity.

You can find more information about the book content through these links:

http://www.amazon.com/Instilling-Religion-Greek-Turkish-Nationalism/dp/1137301198/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1351100997&sr=8-1&keywords=grigoriadis

<http://us.macmillan.com/instillingreligioningreekandturkishnationalism/ioannisNGrigoriadis>

(3) **Miroljub Jevtic**, *Problems of Politology of Religion* (Belgrade: Center for Study of Religion and Religious Tolerance, 2012) ISBN 978-86-87243-08-8

(4) **Yohai Hakak**, *Young Men in Israeli Haredi Yeshiva Education: The Scholars Enclave in Unrest* (Leiden: Brill, 2012)

Abstract

By looking at the case of Lithuanian yeshivas in Israel, Yohai Hakak's book explores the internal tensions and dynamics of religious orders during a stage of a relative loss of charisma, in which the enthusiasm of the founding generation has diminished. It is the first study to include participant observations conducted within these institutions, which are the sacred heart of this segregated and highly religious community. The book highlights the current crisis these fundamentalist institutions are going through marked by a dramatic growth in yeshiva dropout rates. It examines the new and innovative ways the rabbis are trying to respond to the crisis. As part of these attempts the rabbinical discourse portrays a unique utopian and egalitarian world governed by supernatural forces and unlimited spiritual resources and incorporates Western psychological and democratic ideas.

For more details and to order the book **please see the attached flier** or use this link: <http://www.brill.com/young-men-israeli-haredi-yeshiva-education>

Email: yohai.hakak@port.ac.uk
<http://www.port.ac.uk/research/ceisr/members/YohaiHakak/>

- (5) **Charles R. Gallagher** reports that he has received word from Brill that a volume entitled *The Tragic Couple: Jesuit Encounters with Jews* will be published in 2013. The volume is the result of a conference at Boston College in July, 2012.

Some chapter titles which might be of interest to the group might be:

IV. In the Shadow of Twentieth-Century Catastrophe

A. French Conflicts

9. ~~The~~ French Jesuits and Action Française+/ Peter Bernardi
10. ~~The~~ Jesuit Spiritual Insurrection: Resistance to Vichy+/ James Bernauer

B. Italian Struggles

11. ~~The~~ Antisemitism of La Civiltà Cattolica Revisited+/ J. David Lebovitch Dahl
12. ~~The~~ Transforming Anti-Semitism: the Civiltà Cattolica after the Shoah (1945-1965)+/
Elena Mazzini
13. ~~The~~ Vatican Radio and anti-Semitism during World War II+/ Raffaella Perin
14. ~~The~~ Pietro Tacchi-Venturi, S.J., Mussolini, Pius XI, and the Jews+/ David I. Kertzer
15. ~~The~~ Jesuit Pietro Tacchi Venturi and the Rescue of Italian Jews+/ Robert A. Maryks

C. American Contrasts

16. ~~The~~ Father Coughlin's Program may be slightly Fascist+: American Jesuit
Ambivalence in the Case of Father Charles Coughlin, 1935-1940+/ Charles
Gallagher

Further details from Charles (Charles R. Gallagher, S.J., Assistant Professor of
History, Boston College, St. Mary's Hall, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467, USA; tel. + 1 617
552-8106)

Journal articles

- (1) **Michael Minkenberg**, Church-State Regimes and Democracy in the West:
Convergence vs. Divergence, *Geopolitics, History, and International
Relations*, vol. 4, no. 1 (2012), pp. 76- 100.

Book chapters

- (1) **Murat Akan**, Twin Tolerations or Siamese Twins: Kemalist Laicism and
Political Islam in Turkey, in *Institutions and Democracy: Essays in*

Honor of Alfred Stepan edited by Douglas Chalmers and Scott Mainwaring
(Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2012)

- (2) **Michael Minkenberg**, *Religion und Politik unter der Präsidentschaft Barack Obamas* in: *Die Ära Obama. Erste Amtszeit*, edited by Peter Loesche and Anja Ostermann (Bonn: Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, 2012), pp. 164-185.

E-journal

Amelie Barras is delighted to announce that the first issue of the graduate e-journal ***Regulating Religion*** is out. The first articles are available online at:
<http://religionanddiversity.ca/en/projects-and-results/e-journal/summer-2012/>.

Please encourage your graduate students to submit articles in English or French for review for the winter issue. Thanks!

Further details from: Amelie Barras, Post-doctoral fellow, *Religion and Diversity* Project Canada; amelie.barras@umontreal.ca

(3) MISCELLANEOUS

- (1) In August 2012, ECPR *Religion and Politics* Standing Group member, **Alar Kilp**, Institute of Government and Politics, University of Tartu, Estonia, defended successfully dissertation titled "Church authority in society, culture and politics after Communism"
(<http://dSPACE.utlib.ee/dSPACE/handle/10062/25916>).

His supervisor was prof. Rein Taagepera (University of California, Irvine, and University of Tartu) and opponent prof. Christopher Marsh (School of Advanced Military Studies, Fort Leavenworth). Full pdf of the dissertation is available upon request (alar.kilp@ut.ee).

MANY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALAR FROM ECPR STANDING GROUP, 'RELIGION & POLITICS'!

- (2) **Miroljub Jevtic's** recent activities:

Scientific conference on *Multiple Religious Modernities* September 2012, Sydney, Australia

Australian Association for the Study of Religion (AASR) and the Australian Association of Buddhist Studies (AABS) organized conference on *Multiple Religious*

Modernities at the Parramatta campus of the University of Western Sydney, Australia, 28-30th September 2012. Professor Miroljub Jevtic presented paper "The Eastern Orthodox Church And Modern Religious Processes In The World".

http://www.politicsandreligionjournal.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=1&Itemid=2&lang=en

Lecture at St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College, October 2012, Sydney, Australia

During his stay in Sydney, Professor Miroljub Jevtic gave a lecture with topic "The Eastern Orthodox Church and Modern Religious Processes in world" at St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College in Sydney, Australia

http://www.politicsandreligionjournal.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46%3A-----2012---&catid=1%3Aaktuelnosti&Itemid=2&lang=en