



Standing Group on  
Religion and Politics

**European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)**  
**STANDING GROUP ON “RELIGION AND POLITICS”**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**2/2017**

Dear ECPR Religion and Politics SG Members,

Welcome to the second newsletter of 2017 of our Standing Group. Here you will find information about:

- [SG's upcoming events](#),
- [Published Articles](#),
- [Published Books and Book Chapters](#),
- [Call for Papers: Upcoming Conferences](#) and
- [Other Information](#).

Thank you for your contributions. We are looking forward to our future cooperation, and wish you all the best in 2018!

Anja Hennig, Luca Ozzano and Marko Veković

## **SG's upcoming events**

The ECPR Standing group on Religion and Politics invites you to submit **individual papers and panel proposals** for the section

### **Revisiting Religion and Politics Research: Achievements, Critique, Future Questions**

Section will be organized within the ECPR General Conference in Hamburg, 22-25th August 2018.

**Section Chairs:** Anja Hennig ([ahennig@europa-uni.de](mailto:ahennig@europa-uni.de)) and Luca Ozzano ([luca.ozzano@unito.it](mailto:luca.ozzano@unito.it))

- Deadline for submitting individual papers and panel proposals: **FEBRUARY 5th 2018**
- Panels include 3-5 papers
- Panel proposals with max. 500 words and up to 5 keywords
- Please note: For participating at the ECPR conference you must be registered at MyECPR: <https://ecpr.eu/Login.aspx> (please consider conference fees for non-members)

**Individual Papers and Complete Panels proposals should be uploaded directly on the ECPR website.** Procedure for proposing a panel or a paper proposal can be found here: <https://ecpr.eu/Events/EventDetails.aspx?EventID=115>

#### **Section Description:**

Despite an established research tradition on religion and politics that cuts across several sub-disciplines of political science as well as neighboring disciplines (or even constitutes a genuine sub-discipline), there is very little reflection today about the state of the art of this research.

As religion regained prominence in the public and political spheres since the 1970s and 1980s, a major concern among scholars was to question the prevailing secularization paradigm. The empirical study of religious actors, and their interaction with political forces, brought evidence to the fact that neither religion and politics are totally separated nor is religiosity fading away as modernization and secularization theories had assumed.

A vibrant academic debate joining comparative politics and political theory emerged. In recent years, the debate in Europe and the US gained in relevance through the salience of public debates brought by the rise in immigration from religious diverse backgrounds, and by new

developments in relation to family patterns, reproduction techniques, genetic engineering and euthanasia.

Editorial projects abound. Several new handbooks on religion and politics (e.g. Jeff Haynes (2009/2016) or the Oxford Dictionary of Religion and Politics in the United States (2009), books and edited volumes have been published and new journals (e.g. APSA "Religion and Politics") have been created. The disciplinary fragmentation and, thus, the sometimes isolated analysis of similar phenomena, however, leads to some conceptual confusion, and debate on the challenging questions in empirical and theoretical terms could be of use.

Against this background the Section invites scholars revisiting religion and politics research by reflecting perspectives, methods, pre-assumptions, general achievements and debating future questions. It is envisioned to publish a collection of papers selected from this section as a handbook.

Following the key questions or perspectives about achievements, critique and future challenges of religion and politics research, Panels could be organized in three ways:

1. According to **sub-fields, which discuss only** “achievements”, or “critique” or “future questions”
2. According to **sub-fields, which integrate** “achievements”, “critique” and “future questions” in one Panel
3. According to **“achievements” or “critique” or “future questions”**, integrating various sub-fields in one Panel

Examples of sub-fields are:

- Political Theory and Religion/Political Theology
- (Comparative) Public Policy/Political Decision Making and Religion
- Morality Policy
- Welfare Policy
- Governance of Religious Diversity
- Religion and Political Behaviour
- Religious Voting
- Public Opinion
- Religious Actors and Politics
- Political Parties and Religion
- Transnational Religious Movements
- Religious Institutions and the State
- Religion and Democratization
- IR and Religion
- Conflict (resolution) and Religion
- Transnational Agency and Religion

- Europeanization and Religion

Possible examples for critique are:

- Western centrism in religion and politics research
- Secularization and other contested concepts and paradigms
- The conceptualization of religion for religion and politics research

Examples for Future questions and challenges are:

- Relevance of “old” questions or new challenges?
- Secularization (Paradigm)
- Religion and Nationalism
- Radical Religion
- Religion and Gender Equality Policy
- Religion and Illiberal Politics

We encourage Panel organizers to think about thought provoking questions and topics also in order to foster the dialogue between the generations of growing numbers of scholars involved.

**Current Call for Papers/Discussant is open for the following panels:**

**“Disputing Religion and Politics Research: How Western/Eurocentric is its Agenda?”.**

Deadline for Paper proposals and for one discussant is February 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.

Panel Chair: Anja Hennig, European University Viadrina (ahennig@europa-uni.de)

**“Religion and Political Parties in Contemporary Democracies”**

Deadline for Paper proposals is January 30<sup>th</sup> 2018. Panel chair: Luca Ozzano, University of Turin (luca.ozzano@unito.it).

**“On Religion and Politics: Post- and Decolonial Interventions”**

Deadline for Paper proposals is February 4<sup>th</sup> 2018. Panel Chair: Zubair Ahmad, Freie Universität Berlin (zubair@zedat.fu-berlin.de)

## **Published Articles**

Morgan Clarke and Mirjam Künkler, “De-centring Shi‘i Islam,” introductory article to a special issue of the *British Journal for Middle Eastern Studies*, published online October 2017, Vol. 45 (1), pp. 1-17.

Mirjam Künkler and Eva Nisa, A fatwa against sexual violence: the story of a historic congress of female Islamic scholars, *OpenDemocracy*, June 2017.

Tobias Müller, “Destabilizing Religion, Secularism, and the State”, *Political Theory*, Online first October 18<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Tobias Müller, ”Engaging “moderates” against “extremists” in German politics on Islam”, *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*, 15(2), 2017, pp. 55–65.

Costa Georghiou, “Religion Divides Humanity and Poses the Greatest Threat to our Progress”, *Business Day*, South African daily newspaper, July 20<sup>th</sup> 2017.

New issue of the *Politics and Religion Journal* (PRJ) has been published (Vol. 11, No. 2, 2017, pp. 163-292). Topic of this issues is “Pope Francis and Politics”, with Emilce Cuda as a guest editor. Available at: <https://politicsandreligionjournal.com/index.php/prj/issue/view/27>

## **Published monographs and book chapters**

Manuel Litalien, *La philanthropie religieuse en tant que nouveau capital démocratique: développement social et régime providentiel en Thaïlande*, Québec, Presses de l'Université Laval (PUL), 2016, pp. 403.

Mirjam Künkler, John Madeley and Shylashri Shankar (eds.), *A Secular Age Beyond the West. Religion, Law and the State in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa*. With an Afterword by Charles Taylor. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge Studies in Social Theory, Religion and Politics, 2017. For a 20% discount on online orders, enter ASABTW2017 at the check-out.

Alexandre Christoyannopoulos and L. Apps, "Anarchism and Religion", in: N. Jun (ed), *Brill's Companion to Anarchism and Philosophy*, Leiden: Brill, 2018, pp. 120-151, available at <https://tinyurl.com/ybop9bl2>

Mirjam Künkler, "Rule of Law or Rule by Law? Iran's Bar Association as a pawn in Islamic-republican contestations," in: Sylvia Tellenbach (ed.), *Beiträge zum Islamischen Recht XII. Reihe*, Leipziger Beiträge zur Orientforschung, 2017.

Mirjam Künkler, "Constitutionalism, Islamic Law, and Religious Freedom in post-independence Indonesia" in Asli Bali and Hanna Lerner (eds.), *Constitution Writing, Religion and Democracy*, Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Mirjam Künkler and Tine Stein, "Staat, Recht und Verfassung. Ernst-Wolfgang Böckenfördes politisches und verfassungstheoretisches Denken im Kontext", in: *Jahrbuch des Öffentlichen Rechts*, Bd. 65, Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2017, pp. 573-610.

*10 Years of Politology of Religion*, Miroljub Jevtic and Marko Vekovic (eds), Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade, and Center for Study of Religion and Religious Tolerance, Belgrade, 2017, pp. 307, available at: <https://politicsandreligionjournal.com/dokumenti/10-years-ofthe-PRJ-conference-proceedings.pdf>

## **Call for Papers: Upcoming conferences**

**ECPR General Conference 2018**, Hamburg, 24-26<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Call for Papers and one discussant for the Panel **“Disputing Religion and Politics Research: How Western/Eurocentric is its Agenda?”**. Deadline for Paper proposals is February 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. Panel Chair: Anja Hennig, European University Viadrina (ahennig@europa-uni.de)

**ECPR General Conference 2018**, Hamburg, 24-26<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Call for Papers for the Panel **“Religion and Political Parties in Contemporary Democracies”**. Deadline for Paper proposals is January 30<sup>th</sup> 2018. Panel chair: Luca Ozzano, University of Turin (luca.ozzano@unito.it).

**ECPR General Conference 2018**, Hamburg, 24-26<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Call for Papers for the Panel **“On Religion and Politics: Post- and Decolonial Interventions”**. Deadline for Paper proposals is February 4<sup>th</sup> 2018. Panel Chair: Zubair Ahmad, Freie Universität Berlin (zubair@zedat.fu-berlin.de)

**“Politology of Religion, A Bi-Annual Conference”**, Belgrade, 23-24<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Hosted by the *Politics and Religion Journal* and Department of Political Science, University of Belgrade. Paper and panel proposals should be sent by April 30<sup>th</sup> 2018 to Marko Vekovic (marko.vekovic@fpn.bg.ac.rs). Further information will be announced at the [www.politicsandreligionjournal.com](http://www.politicsandreligionjournal.com)

## **Other information**

**Charles Gallagher** is working on a book manuscript for Harvard University Press entitled: *The Nazis of Copley Square: A History of the Christian Front, 1939-1945*. The MS is due in September of 2018. The Christian Front was a pro-fascist group associated with Father Charles Coughlin and active in New York and Boston. I am examining the theological impulses which permitted these American Catholics to align with Nazi views and principles.

**Natalie Ghosn, Esq.** is presently a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Miami conducting widespread research on comparative religious law. As part of her study she is seeking introductions to Rabbis, Imams and Shaykhs in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom who would be interested in contributing to the growing body of knowledge on religious family law in the Islamic and Judaic faiths. Specifically, she is interested in hearing about the pastoral experience of religious leaders in their congregations and throughout their careers. Natalie is available at [n.ghosn@umiami.edu](mailto:n.ghosn@umiami.edu) or 1-305-440-7373 to answer any questions about the research.

**Tobias Müller** is kindly informing you about the ongoing research on “Religious? Secular? Re-Thinking Islam and Space in Europe”, resulting in a workshop on Islam and Space in Cambridge, information about which can be found here: <https://cmepf.wordpress.com/religious-secular-re-thinking-islam-and-space-in-europe/>