



Theology and Canon Law Project
(TCLP)

SYMPOSIUM 2025



law & religion

IN TIMES OF CRISIS, CHALLENGES AND CHANGE

FREE ADMISSION | IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

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FORDHAM LONDON, EC1R 5ET | 20 MARCH 2025

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9:30-9:45 a.m.
Welcome & Inaugural Remarks
Stephan Hecht

9:45-11:15 a.m.
Keynote Lectures

Whence Law: perspectives from canon law

- Luke Beckett, *General Secretary – Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland* (Ampleforth Abbey, United Kingdom)

Law and Religion - The Challenges of Safeguarding Today

- Helen Costigane, *St. Mary's, Twickenham* (London, United Kingdom)

11:15 a.m.-11:40 a.m. Coffee Break

11:40 a.m.-1:10 p.m.
Concurrent Session 1

Panel A: Law and Religion – Global Challenges and Perspectives (1)

Church and State Law in the Philippines Amid Economic Downturns, Development Hurdles, and Social Transformations

- Emmanuel Caliwan, *University of the Philippines* (Los Baños, Philippines)

Religion, Public Measures, Risks, and Changes of Social Life during the Global Pandemic

- Joel Agpalo Tejedro, *Asia Pacific Research Center (APRC)/Asia Pacific Theological Seminary* (Baguio City, Philippines)

Protecting pluralism: Bridging legal gaps to counter online misinformation and hate speech against religion and customs

- Akansha Gupta/Meera Mathew, *Christ* (Delhi, India)

Panel B: Law and Religion – The Church in Crisis

Institutional Liability of the Catholic Church in Abuse Cases A Case Study from the Netherlands

- Katja Zimmermann, *University of Groningen* (Groningen, Netherlands)

Pope Francis's 'Middle Way' Response to Internal Crises and the Need for Catholic Constitutionalism

- Ryszard Bobrowicz, *University of Bonn* (Bonn, Germany)

The New Legislative Framework and the Challenges for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church

- Sergei A. Mudrov, *Institute of Political Science Slovak Academy of Sciences* (Bratislava, Slovakia)

Panel C: Law and Religion – Perspectives from Jewish Law

One Eighty Degrees Away from Jerusalem: Extreme Points of Earth, Extreme Historical Crises, and Jewish Law

- Clément Labi, *University of Luxembourg* (Luxembourg City, Luxembourg)

Imago Dei and Human Dignity in the Light of the Interpretative (Rabbinic and Patristic) Traditions

- Krisztián Fenyves, *Pázmány Péter Catholic University - Mathias Corvinus Collegium* (Budapest, Hungary)

Religious Zionist settlers in a post-modern religious landscape

- Harry Hatwell, *Yale Law School* (New Haven, United States)

1:10-2:10 p.m.

Lunch Break

2:10-4:10 p.m.

Concurrent Session 2

Panel A: Law and Religion – Global Challenges and Perspectives (2)

Secularism and Religious Freedom in Indian Subcontinent: Comparing the Working Dynamics

- Atul Kumar Dubey/Shreya Matilal, *Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur* (West Bengal, India)

Religious Law and Global Crises: Legal Responses to Climate Change, Migration, and Social Inequities

- Lubabalo Mjadu, *Walter Sisulu University* (Mthatha, South Africa)

Law, Religion, and Crisis: The Weaponization of Witchcraft Accusations Against Older Women in Three African Countries

- Claire Princess Ayelotan, *Christ the Redeemer College* (London, United Kingdom)

Rethinking Equality Law in Post-Conflict Northern Ireland

- Nichola McNulty, *Bath Spa University* (Bath, United Kingdom)

Panel B: Law and Religion – Legal, Ethical and Philosophical Challenges (1)

Dignity Amid Digitalization: Catholic Social Teaching and the Future of Work

- Mark Bell, *Trinity College* (Dublin, Ireland)

Freedom of Religion and Inclusion: Legal Challenges in Detention Contexts

- Martina Palazzo, *University of Milano-Bicocca* (Milan, Italy)

Pope Francis: Strategies to Address Seven Simultaneous Global Crises

- Thomas Massaro, S.J., *Fordham University* (New York, United States)

Religion Amidst Social Crises, Challenges and Changes. Applied Ethics and Ethos

- Chijioke Francis Nwosu, *Ludwig Maximilian Universität* (Munich, Germany)

Panel C: Law and Religion – Historical Perspectives to Crises, Challenges and Change (1)

From Emperor's Grace to Popular Will: The Constitutional Transformation of German Churches in the Post-Imperial Crisis

- Christoph Rech, *Max-Planck-Institut für Rechtsgeschichte und Rechtstheorie, Goethe Universität* - (Frankfurt am Main, Germany)
- Malte Dücker, *Goethe Universität* (Frankfurt am Main, Germany)

A Knight Errant and his Quest for Peace: David Urquhart, Just War, and the Restoration of Canon Law

- Daniel Canning, *St Patrick's Pontifical University* (Maynooth, Ireland)

Defining the Boundaries of Law: Francisco Suárez SJ on What Law Is – and Is Not

- Stephan Hecht, *Fordham University* (London, United Kingdom)

The “Exhortation aux Princes” and the struggle for religious pacification in France: The rise of civil tolerance

- Nicolò Di Dio, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia* (Modena, Italy)

4:10-4:30 p.m.

Coffee Break

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Concurrent Session 3

Panel A: Law and Religion: Legal, Ethical and Philosophical Challenges (2)

The Challenge of Secular Religion: Does Secularisation still apply?

- Szabolcs Nagypál, *Mathias Corvinus Collegium* (Budapest, Hungary)

Conflicts with religious entities: Quo Vadis, Vatican?

- Blerina Xheraj, *BPP Law School* (London, United Kingdom)

Between Fear and Anxiety: Analyzing Crisis as an Existential Metaphor

- David Manolo Sailer, *Universität für angewandte Kunst* (Vienna, Austria)

Panel B: Law and Religion – Historical Perspectives to Crises, Challenges and Change (2)

Parliamentary sovereignty: can legal history resolve a twenty-first century conundrum?

- Aloysius Atkinson, *Lincoln's Inn* (London, United Kingdom)

Canon Law and International Law as the Framework for an Ethics of Peace and Conflict – a legal-historical outline

- Harald Tripp, *University of Vienna* (Vienna, Austria)

What has lex to do with orandi and credendi

- Oliver Wright, *Keble College – Oxford University* (Oxford, United Kingdom)

6:00-7:00pm

**Thanksgiving, Final Keynote & Invitation
to the Reception**

Islamic law and the transitioning state in Nigeria and Egypt

- Sarah Eltantawi, *Fordham University* (New York, United States)

7:00-8:00 p.m.

Reception