

Participants

Zaheeda Alibhai, Carleton University

Rochelle Almeida, New York University

Sara Anderson, Lamar University

Joyce Apsel, New York University, President, Institute for the Study of Genocide

Jennifer Bannan, University of Pittsburgh

Jonathan R. Beloff, The School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London

Anya Bernstein, Harvard University

Gregorio Bettiza, European University Institute

Rajeev Bhargava, Centre for the study of Developing Societies

Pamela Brown, New York University

Didem Doganyilmaz, Project Researcher in UNESCO, Chair of Intercultural Dialogue in the Mediterranean (Tarragona/Spain)

Arolda Elbasani, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies

Bert Gasenbeek, University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht, The Netherlands

Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, Northwestern University

Philip Kitcher, Columbia University

Stijn Latré, University of Antwerp (Belgium), Department of Philosophy and Center Pieter

George Levine, Rutgers University (Emeritus)

Amy Logan, Independent Author

Patrick Loobuyck, UA Centre Pieter Gillis/Centre for Active Pluralism, Antwerp, Belgium

Farzad Mahootian, New York University

James McBride, New York University

Eddis Miller, Pace University

Ayse Seda Muftugil

Maryam Namazie, One Law For All

Roberta Newman, New York University

Elayne Oliphant, Brown University

Father Justin Pech, Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule Heiligenkreuz

Mahaarum Kusuma Pertiwi, University of Oslo

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Michael Rectenwald, New York University

Justin Reynolds, Columbia University

Robert Richards, The University of Chicago

Charles Richter, The George Washington University

Bruce Robbins, Columbia University

Laura Samponaro, New York University

Catherine Scott

Jonathan Scott, New York University

Vikash Singh, Rutgers University

Murat Somer, Koç University

John Tangney, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Jolyon Baraka Thomas, Princeton University

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Andrew Ventimiglia, University of California, Davis

Michael Warner, Yale University

Chika Watanabe, Yale University

David Sloan Wilson, Binghamton University



Global Secularisms

A Conference Hosted by Global Liberal Studies

The Global Liberal Studies Program at NYU is hosting its inaugural international, academic conference on November 15 and 16 in New York. The focus of the conference is Global Secularisms.

In recent years, secularism has become a subject of pressing importance for philosophers, social scientists, activists, and theologians. Secularism received renewed scholarly attention with the publication of Charles Taylor's important book *A Secular Age* in 2007.

Secularism is a vexed topic with global implications and consequences, affecting virtually every part of the world, every nation state and every culture. Questions related to secularism (and post-secularism) have become increasingly urgent and involve enormous real-world implications. From the emergence of the "new atheism," to battles over "Shariah law" in Europe and the Middle East, to the reemergence of religion in the politics of India and Turkey, to battles over the authority of science in the United States, to struggles both intellectual and political over the shape of the public sphere, the question of secularism proves critical.

This conference returns to these and other related issues, in the light of recent events that are having serious effects on the way we live now, on the shape of global politics and culture for the immediate future.

conference website:

<http://globalsecularisms.org>

register at

<https://www.nyu.edu/as/forms/lc-conference.html>

conference chair: Michael Rectenwald

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Liberal Studies/Global Liberal Studies

726 Broadway

6th Floor

New York, NY 10003

Friday, November 15

9:00 – 9:25 AM: Light Breakfast and Coffee: Room 909

9:30 AM: Panels A and B: Rooms 903 and 905/907

A. Politics: Room 903 (Chair: Roberta Newman)

1. Gregorio Bettiza, "The Rise of Post-Secular Foreign Policy Experts: What Do They Mean and Do When They Say that American Foreign Policy Is 'Secular?'"
2. Didem Doganyilmaz, "Discussions Regarding Laicism on the Way to the New Turkish Constitution"
3. Arolda Elbasani, "Islam, Secularism and Democracy in the European Context"
4. Jonathan Scott, "Bolivarian Secularism"

B. Theory: Room 905/907

(Chair: Mahnaz Yousefzadeh)

1. Pamela Brown, "The Family of Man: Transcendence and Moral Imagination in a Secular Age"
2. Stijn Latré, "Religion and internal secularization. A critical assessment of recent theories of religious evolution and the secularization of culture"
3. Farzad Mahootian, "A Comparison of Sufi and Transhumanist Ideals of Human Perfection"
4. Father Justin Pech, "Secularism Confronts Theology – a European Perspective"
5. John Tangney, "Neoplatonism, Neoliberalism and the Inner Life"

11:15 AM: Panels C and D: Rooms 905/907 and 903

C. The Public Sphere: Room 905/907

(Chair: Saul Anton)

1. Jonathan R. Beloff, "The Development of the Relationship between the Public Sphere and the Church in Rwanda"
2. Elayne Oliphant, "Circulations of the Sacred: Contemporary Art as 'Cultural' Catholicism in 21st Century Paris"
3. Ozlem Uluc, "Religion and Post-Secularity: New Perspectives on the Public Sphere"
4. Chika Watanabe, "Ecological Abeyance: The Politics of 'Nonreligious' Japanese Aid in Burma/Myanmar"

D. Education: Room 903 (Chair: Rochelle Almeida)

1. Joyce Apsel, "Heavens on Earth: Promises and Perils of Human Rights Education"
2. Bert Gasenbeek, "Secularism, science and worldview? The case of the University of Humanistic Studies"
3. Patrick Loobuyck, "Religious education in post-secular societies"
4. Ayse Seda Muftugil, "Compulsory Religious Education and Religious Minorities in Turkey"

Friday, November 15, continued

12:45 – 1:25 PM: Lunch: Room 909

1:30: Plenary Panel E: Room 905/907

E. Secularism, what is it and what is it good for?

(Opening Remarks by Fred Schwarzbach, Dean of Liberal Studies; Chair: Brendan Hogan)

1. Philip Kitcher, "Secular Humanism as a Positive Perspective"
2. George Levine, "The Troubles of an Unrepentant Secularist"
3. Bruce Robbins, "Atheists in Foxholes"
4. Michael Warner, "Contradictions among Secularisms"

3:15 PM: Plenary Panel F: Room 905/907

F. Plenary Panel: Science and Secularisms

(Chair: George Levine)

1. Michael Rectenwald, "Is A Post-Secular Science Possible?"
2. Robert Richards, "Need Science Be Secular?"
3. David Sloan Wilson, "Lessons from an Evolutionary Think Tank"

Saturday, November 16

9:00 – 9:25 AM: Coffee and Light Breakfast: Room 909

9:30 AM: Panels G and H: Room 905/907 and 903

G. Narrative: Room 905/907 (Chair: Jacqueline Bishop)

1. Sara Anderson, "Transnational Secularisms, Economic Crisis, and the Case of Ishmael Reed's Mumbo Jumbo"
2. Jennifer Bannan, "The Soul's Last Gasp: Atwood's Use of Self-Help in Her MaddAddam Series"
3. Amy Logan, "Can Secularism Spare Women from Honor Violence?"
4. Justin Reynolds, "The Ecumenical Movement and the Missionary Encounter with Secularism, 1928-1948"
5. Laura Samponaro, "Cold Comfort? Secular Consolation in the Ancient Roman Epistolary Tradition"

H. "Sacred" Desires: "Secular" Spaces: Room 903

(Chair: Lindsay Davies)

1. Sean Eve, "Rav Kook and Zvi Yehudah Kook: charismatic religious leadership and the consequences of spiritual accommodation on the political institutions it justifies"
2. Roberta Newman, "When the Secular is Sacred: The Memorial Hall to the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre and the Gettysburg National Military Park as Pilgrimage Sites"
3. Mahaarum Kusuma Pertiwi, "Freedom of Religion in a Secular State"
4. Vikash Singh, "On the Way: Religion, Secularism, Violence"

Saturday, November 16, continued

11:15 AM: Panels I and J: Rooms 905/907 and 903

I. The Nation: Room 905/907 (Chair: Peter Diamond)

1. Zaheeda Alibhai, "Read Her Lips: Canadian Identity, the Burqa and the Niqab"
2. Rochelle Almeida, "Not Another Day Off! Secularism in India as Revealed by Federal Holidays"
3. Charles Richter, "A Deeply-Felt Religious Faith, and I Don't Care What It Is: American Anti-Atheism as Nativism"
4. Catherine Scott, "Post-secularism in post-Soviet Russia"
5. Jolyon Baraka Thomas, "State Shintō as Heretical Secularism"

J. The "Sacred" Object: Room 903 (Chair: Nancy Reale)

1. Anya Bernstein, "Caution, Religion!: Iconoclasm, Secularism, and Ways of Seeing in Post-Soviet Art Wars"
2. James McBride, "The Myth of Secularism in America"
3. Eddis Miller, "Towards a Spectral Theology: Kant as Theorist of Secularization"
4. Andrew Ventimiglia, "Demanding the Angel's Share: Intellectual Property and Spiritual Organization in the Urantia Foundation"

12:45 – 1:25 PM: Lunch: Room 909

1:30 PM: Plenary Panel K: Room 905/907

K. Plenary Panel: Post-secularisms in Context

(Chair: Tilottama Tharoor)

1. Rajeev Bhargava, "We Have Always Been Post-secular"
2. Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, "International Politics after Secularism"
3. Maryam Namazie, "Secularism as a Universal Right: A Look at the Importance of Secularism in the Face of Islamism and the Religious Right"
4. Mitra Rastegar, "(Post)-Secular Tolerance, (Post)-Racial Racism and the Management of Muslims/Arabs"