



Invitation to

The second international conference on:

The Impact of Religion Challenges for Society, Law and Democracy

Uppsala University, Sweden, April 24-26th 2018

(Workshop for doctoral students April 23-24th)

The *Impact of Religion* conference offers an interdisciplinary forum to disseminate, share and discover current research on the role of religion in both the public and the private sphere – locally, nationally and internationally. Particular attention is paid to the links between religion, the law and wider social developments.

Keynote Speakers

José Casanova, Professor of Sociology of Religion, Department of Sociology, head of the Berkley Center's Program on Globalization, Religion and the Secular, Georgetown University, USA

Grace Chang, Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, USA

Grace Davie, Professor of Sociology, University of Exeter, UK

Adam Dinham, Professor of Faith & Public Policy, and Director of the Faiths and Civil Society Unit, Goldsmiths, University of London, UK

Carl Reinhold Bråkenhielm Professor, Studies in World Views, Uppsala University, Sweden

Marie-Claire Foblets, Professor of Law and of Anthropology, Managing Director of Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany

Maarit Jänterä-Jareborg, Professor of Private International Law and International Civil Procedure, Uppsala University, Sweden

Solange Lefebvre, Chair on cultural and religious diversity, Institute of religious studies, University of Montreal, Canada

Michaela Potancokova, Demographer, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Centre for Advanced Studies, Ispra, Italy

Pamela Slotte, Research Fellow of Academy of Finland, Associate professor in Minority Studies, Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland

(March 29th 2018)

The religious landscape of Europe is continually changing

Migrations, provoked by international conflicts and poverty, have brought new challenges to secular states regarding the handling of religious and cultural pluralism. Religion (in all its diversity) influences different sectors of society and how they in turn influence religion. Religious traditions and convictions raise new issues for states, local governments, lawyers, healthcare workers, and teachers – in practice for all citizens. At the same time secularist counter-reactions oppose religious visibility in the public sphere and religious/ethnic pluralism is questioned by right wing groups. Increasing racism related to religion and religiously motivated terror, adds energy to growing polarizations. Additionally new existential issues appear due to feelings of insecurity arising from war, terror, global warming and advancing technology. In such circumstances, religion appears in a positive as well as negative light. These ongoing changes provoke new questions regarding the role of religion in democracy, human rights, law, family life, healthcare, well-being, welfare and science. Religion has become a crucial research area in a wide variety of academic disciplines. Thus there is a need to reconsider the concept of religion and to rethink theoretical and methodological approaches.

The Uppsala conference provides an opportunity to disseminate, share and discover a wide range of data and ideas within this expanding field. Paper presentations include contributions from lawyers, human rights experts, social scientists, specialists in social policy, health and welfare, philosophers and scientists, as well as those engaged directly in theology and religious studies. The conference marks the end of the 10 year research programme *The Impact of Religion: Challenges for Society, Law and Democracy*, and the merging of the *Impact programme* with Uppsala Religion and Society Research Centre. Results from the IMPACT programme will be presented and discussed in joint sessions along with contributions from other researchers attending the conference.

Paper presentations from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives include the following themes:

- Religion and migration
- Religion in the public sphere, media and politics
- Religious diversity, non-religion, secularism
- Religious freedom versus other human rights
- Religion and youth, family, gender, sexuality
- Religion and racism, discrimination, segregation
- Religion and violence, terror and the security state
- Faith based organisations as welfare providers, civil society, social capital
- Existential health and well-being
- Science and religion, relativism and absolutism

The conference is hosted by **The Impact of Religion Programme** and **Uppsala Religion and Society Research Centre** at Uppsala University.

Registration is compulsory for participation.

For programme, registration, practical information etc. see the conference website:

www.crs.uu.se/research/conference/



(March 29th 2018)