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The Postsecular in International Politics

**International ESRC-sponsored conference
University of Sussex, Conference Centre
27-28 October 2011**



<http://internationalpostsecular.wordpress.com/>

Convenors:

Convenors: *Luca Mavelli*, ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow and *Fabio Petito*, Senior Lecturer
Department of International Relations, School of Global Studies, University of Sussex

For information and registration please contact the conference coordinator:

Joanna Wood, University of Sussex, joanna_c_wood@yahoo.co.uk

Over the last few years the notion of postsecularity has gained increasing relevance as a form of radical theorizing and critique spurred by the doubt that ideals such as democracy, freedom, equality, and justice may not necessarily be best pursued within an exclusively secular framework. In International Relations, however, the question of the postsecular has been mostly overlooked. The aim of this international conference is to contribute to fill this gap by offering a novel perspective to engage with current developments in international politics, including the recent revolts in Arab and Middle-Eastern countries, the resurgence of civilizational discourses in a post-Western world, the crisis of the secular state both in Europe and in the Middle East, the attempt to establish new forms of dialogue between the 'West' and Islam, and the question of religious violence after 9/11.



The **Postsecular in International Politics** will bring together a range of internationally renowned scholars, including **Joseph Camilleri, Stephen Chan, Fred Dallmayr, Richard Falk, Jeff Haynes, Mustapha Pasha, Nick Rengger, Olivier Roy, Richard Sakwa, Scott Thomas and Ole Wæver.**

Speakers will focus on the theoretical, political and normative meanings and implications of the postsecular for current debates on sovereignty, justice, security, political violence, globalization, global governance, democracy, multiculturalism and dialogue. Attention will be devoted to the recent protest movements in North-African and Middle-Eastern countries, and whether and how they are contributing to the emergence of a new postsecular Islamic public sphere. Finally, the conference will look at the postsecular in a post-Western multipolar and multicivilizational international system and how it is contributing to shaping new forms of resistance and political agency.

Standard conference fee (2 days)	£120	To view the full conference programme please visit: http://internationalpostsecular.wordpress.com/ To book a place to attend please contact Joanna Wood: joanna_c_wood@yahoo.co.uk
Standard conference fee (1 day)	£80	
Student conference fee (2 days)	£70	
Student conference fee (1 day)	£45	
The conference fee includes registration, lunch(es) and coffee breaks		

DAY 1 – 27 October 2011

9-9.25: registration/coffee break

9.25-9.30: Introductory remarks: Luca Mavelli and Fabio Petito

9.30 – 10.25: **1st Keynote address: RICHARD FALK** (Princeton) (30 min)

Achieving Political Legitimacy in the 21st Century: The Postsecular Imperative

Discussant: FRED DALLMAYR (Notre Dame) (5 min) + Q&A (20 min)

10.30 – 12.30: **Panel 1: Theorising the Postsecular in International Relations (I)** (20min x 4 + 40min Q&A)

Fred Dallmayr (Notre Dame): *Post-secularity and (Global) Politics*

Joseph Camilleri (La Trobe): *Worlds in Transition: The Limits of Secularism and Post-secularism*

Turan Kayaoglu (UWT): *Interfaith Theology and Global Interfaith Movements: Creating a Postsecular International Public Sphere*

Huw Rees (Sussex): *Habermas' Postsecular Translation – A Critique*

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch Break

14.00 – 14.55: **2nd Keynote address: OLIVIER ROY** (EUI) (30 min)

Post secularism or Re-assessing Secularism? The Misunderstanding About the Return of the Sacred

Discussant: tbc (5 min) + Q&A (20 min)

15.00 – 17.00: **Panel 2: International Relations, Islam and the Postsecular**

Mustapha Kamal Pasha (Aberdeen): *Modernity, Islam, and the Postsecular*

Pinar Bilgin (Bilkent): *The Politics of Civilization/s and Security in a Post-secular Era?*

Luca Mavelli (Sussex/Surrey): *Foucault in Tahrir Square: Torture and the Postsecular Body of the Revolution*

Mariano Barbato (Cluj-Napoca): *Postsecular Revolution: Religion after the end of history*

17.00 – 17.30: Coffee Break

17.30 – 19.30: **Panel 3: Europe and the Postsecular**

Scott M. Thomas (Bath) & Anthony O'Mahony (Heythrop College): *Postsecularity and the Contending Visions of the European Political Imagination in IR*

Hilal Elver (UCSB): *Global Headscarf Debate in the Setting of Post-Secular Environment*

François Foret (ULB): *Towards a post-secular Europe? Religion in European Politics*

Antonio Cerella (Sussex): *Religion and Political Form: Carl Schmitt's Political Theology as Critique of the Secular-Postsecular Dichotomy*

DAY 2 – 28 October 2011

9-9.30: registration/coffee break

9.30 – 10.25: **3rd Keynote address: OLE WÆVER** (Copenhagen) (30 min)

Secularist/Anti-Secularist Escalation and After: How Europeans could Struggle at Home and Abroad over Religion/Politics without Principled Pretence

Discussant: JOSEPH CAMILLERI (La Trobe) (5 min) + Q&A (20 min)

10.30 – 12.30: **Panel 4: Theorising the Postsecular in International Relations (II)** (20minx4 + 40min Q&A)

Stephen Chan (SOAS): *Trauma, Dislocation, and Lived Fear in the Postsecular World*

Nick Rengger (St. Andrews): *Authority In a Postsecular Global Order: Metaphysical Not Political?*

Fabio Petito (Sussex): *Religion and Civilizational Politics in a Post-Secular International Context*

Adrian Pabst (Kent): *The Paradoxical Primacy of the Local and the Global: IR theory, International Politics and the Enduring Presence of Religion*

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch Break

14.00 – 14.55: **4th Keynote address: RICHARD SAKWA** (Kent) (30 min)

Russia: The Clash of Post-secular Orders

Discussant: NICK RENGGER (St. Andrews) (5 min) + Q&A (20 min)

15.00 – 17.00: **Panel 5: The postsecular in a post-Western world order**

Lucia Michelutti (Oxford): *Postsecular Political Experimentation in a Post-Western World Order: Comparisons across India and Latin America*

Alexandre Christoyannopoulos (Loughborough): *Leo Tolstoy's Postsecular International Thought*

Niamh Reilly (NUI Galway): *Religion and 'Secularism' in Feminist Approaches to International Relations: Reconfigurations for a Neo-secular Age*

İştar Gözaydın (Dogus): *Religion as Soft Power in the International Relations of Turkey*

17.00 – 17.30: Coffee Break

17.30 – 19.30: **Panel 6: Religion and Foreign Policy in a Postsecular World**

Jeff Haynes (London Metropolitan): *Religious Transnational Actors and Postsecularity*

Cesare Merlini (Brookings): *Religious Revival and Megatrends in Global Security, Economy and Governance*

Stacey Gutkowski (King's): *The politics of postsecular borders: transnational religion and the 2010 Arizona border controversy*

Erin K. Wilson (RMIT): *Understanding the growing influence of faith-based organisations in contemporary International Relations*

19.30 – 19.35: Concluding remarks: Fabio Petito and Luca Mavelli

19.35 – 20.30: Drinks and nibbles