

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Dynamics of Secularism, (Anti)Clericalism, Theology, and Science in Southeastern and Central Europe

September 28 & 29, 2024

Hotel »Palas«

Petrovac, Montenegro

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The conference is organised as part of the project
"Beyond the Anticlerical Paradigm: Rethinking Secularism in Contemporary Montenegro"

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Day 1: September 28, 2024

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration of participants**

09:00 – 09:15 Introductory speech by the organiser

09:15 – 10:15 Lecture by **Professor Hugh McLeod**
(**Emeritus Professor of Church History, University of Birmingham**)
New Paths to Salvation in Modern Europe: A Religion of Sport?

10:15 – 10:30 **Coffee Break**

10:30 – 11:30 **PANEL 1 - Exploring Secularism and Religion in Montenegro's Historical and Modern Context**

1. **Vuk Uskoković (European University Institute, Florence)**
Early Modern Secularism in Montenegro: The Spiritual/Temporal Divide in the Rhetoric and Praxis Bishop Daniel of Cetinje (d. 1735)
2. **Emil Hilton Saggau (Lund University, Centre for Theology and Religious Studies)**
*Nationalisation of the Sacred:
A Paradigm to Understand the Role of Religion in the Public Sphere in Montenegro*
3. **Thomas Griffiths (King's College London)**
*National Indifference & Culture War:
New Perspectives on National Contestation in Montenegro*

Moderator: Nikola Zečević (University of Montenegro, Institute for Advanced Studies)

11:30 – 12:30 **PANEL 2 - Secularism, Atheism, and Cultural Heritage: Education and Identity in South-Eastern Europe**

1. **Teodoritschka Gotovska-Henze (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Historical Studies)**
Introducing Secular Education in Religious and Cultural Diverted Societies (Slovak – Bulgarian Paralels)
2. **Gašper Mithans & Mateja Režek (Science and Research Centre, Institute for Historical Studies, Koper)**
*"The Truth About Religion is Revealed by History and Science":
Atheism and Anticlericalism in School Education in Socialist Slovenia*
3. **Branko Banović (Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Institute of Ethnography) & Miloš Milenković (University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy)**
*Bridging the Gap Between Academic Research and the Practice of Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding:
A Case Study on the Underrepresentation of Minority Elements in Montenegro's Register of Cultural Property*

Moderator: Teodora Stanković
(University of Montenegro, Institute for Advanced Studies)

12:30 – 13:45 **Lunch**

13:45 – 14:45 **PANEL 3 - Secularism, Catholicism, and the 'Other': Rethinking Religious and Constitutional Identities in Central Europe**

1. **Maria Roginska (University of the National Education Commission, Institute of Sociology, Kraków)**
Imagining the Sacred: Soviet Materialism and Its Impact on Science-Based Religious Imaginary in Poland and Ukraine

2. **Michał Warchala**
(University of the National Education Commission, Institute of Sociology, Kraków)
After Catholicism, or How to Conceptualize the Religious Situation in Poland
3. **Marietta van der Tol (University of Oxford)**
*The Fashioning of "The Other" in Europe's Constitutional Repertoires:
The Cases of Poland and Hungary*

Moderator: Patryk Dziurosz-Serafinowicz
(University of Montenegro, Institute for Advanced Studies)

14:45 – 15:45

PANEL 4 - Representations of Secularism Across Eastern Europe and Beyond: From Science Fiction to Caricature

1. **Olaf Blaschke (University of Münster)**
*Caricatures as Indicator and Factor for the Dynamics of Secularism
in the 19th and 20th Century*
2. **Hauke Riesch (Brunel University London)**
Science, Spirituality, and Science Education in Eastern European Science Fiction
3. **Turkay Gasimova (European University Institute, Florence) [ONLINE]**
*Secularism as a Political Doctrine Beyond the West:
Origins of Secularism in the Russian Empire*

Moderator: Maryna Batsman (American University of Central Asia, Division of Arts, Humanities, and Communication)

15:45 – 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:00

BOOK PROMOTION – Saul Newman *Political Theology: A Critical Introduction (Montenegrin Edition)*

Speakers:

Feďa Pavlović (University of Montenegro, Institute for Advanced Studies)
**Anton Markoć (American University of Central Asia, Division of Arts, Humanities,
and Communication) – Translator of the book**
Saul Newman (Goldsmiths, University of London) – Author of the book

Day 2: September 29, 2024

09:15 – 10:15

Lecture by **Professor Marco Ventura (Professor at the University of Siena and
Director of the Center for Religious Studies at Fondazione Bruno Kessler)**
Freedom of Religion or Belief: A Space for the Reinvention of Secularism

10:15 – 10:30

Coffee Break

10:30 – 11:30

PANEL 5 - Gender, Religion, and Secularism: Orthodox and Catholic Perspectives

1. **Andrea Jovanović (Institute for Political Studies, Belgrade)**
*Orthodox Christianity and Gender: Challenges of Conceptualising and Analysing
Desecularisation in Southeast Europe*
2. **Marcin Bider (University of Natural Sciences and Humanities, Siedlce)**
*Responding to Secularization:
A Discussion on the Possible Revival of the Social Work of the Women's Diaconate in the
Catholic Church in the 21st Century*

3. **Teodora Stanković (University of Montenegro, Institute for Advanced Studies)**
The Role of Secularism in Shaping Gender Norms in Montenegro

Moderator: Vuk Uskoković (European University Institute, Florence)

11:30 – 12:30

PANEL 6 - Between De-Secularization and Secularism: Political and Religious Tensions in Greece, Serbia, and Northern Macedonia

1. **Konstantinos Papastathis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of Political Science)**
Rigorist Populism or Incremental Political De-Secularization?
The Case of Greece's Niki Party
2. **Milan Veselica (Institute of International Politics and Economics, Belgrade)**
Civil Religion in Serbia:
A Nexus Between Christian Orthodox Ideas and Western Secularism
3. **Vedran Obućina (Centre for Interreligious Dialogue, Croatia) [ONLINE]**
Aggressive Secularism in Northern Macedonia
or Lack of Responsibility in the Religious Communities?

Moderator: Patryk Dziurosz-Serafinowicz
(University of Montenegro, Institute for Advanced Studies)

12:30 – 13:45

Lunch

13:45 – 14:45

PANEL 7 - Religion, Philosophy, and Post-Secularity: Reimagining Public Discourse

1. **Vasileios Christodoulakis (Hellenic Open University, Crete) [ONLINE]**
A Normative Argument for Religion in Public Sphere
2. **Spyridon Kaltsas (University of Ioannina, Department of Philosophy)**
The Multiple Experiences of Post-Secularity
3. **Dominika Dziurosz-Serafinowicz (University of Montenegro, Institute for Advanced Studies)**
Religious and Philosophical Language - Differences and Similarities

Moderator: Vuk Uskoković (European University Institute, Florence)

14:45 – 15:45

PANEL 8 - Montenegro in Transition: Constitutional Identity, State-Religion Relations, and Populism

1. **Matija Stojanović (University of Montenegro, Faculty of Law)**
Montenegro's Constitutional Identity in Light of Post-Secularism
2. **Nikola Šaranović (University of Donja Gorica, Faculty of Law)**
State-Religion Dialogue in Montenegro: Legislation and Practice
3. **Feđa Pavlović (University of Montenegro, Institute for Advanced Studies)**
Populist Rupture and Its Aftermath in Montenegro (2020-2023)

Moderator: Teodora Stanković (University of Montenegro, Institute for Advanced Studies)

15:45 - 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:00

Lecture by **Professor Saul Newman**
(Professor of Politics at Goldsmiths, University of London)
Rethinking Liberalism in Post-Secular Times

17:00 - 17:15

Closing of the conference