



INTERSECTIONS OF RELIGION AND RACE: LAW, POLITICS, AND EVERYDAY LIFE

Online Workshop at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity
Organized by the Ethics, Law and Politics Department

9 and 10 December 2020

- by invitation only -

The intricate relationship between religion and race has been fuelling both public debate and academic discussion. While the intersections of these categories have not yet received much attention in the political and legal realm, scholars have begun to pay closer attention to their intertwined histories and conceptual connections, pointing for example to the racialisation of religion and the importance of the 'religion-line' for the genealogy of race beyond colonial history and the colour-line. Indeed, current and historical forms of exclusion, such as for example antisemitism and Islamophobia, complicate attempts to draw any neat delineation of race and religion. What would it mean to consider religious and racial formations in tandem and how can it illuminate current and historical forms of exclusions?

The blurry line between religion and race raises not only theoretical but also practical questions: Does discrimination against Jews and Muslims constitute racial or religious discrimination, or both? What are the consequences of this distinction and/or intersectionality for available mechanisms of protection and for avenues of political resistance? To which extent can we describe judicial and legislative attempts to ban religious practices, such as infant

male circumcision, religious slaughter, and the headscarf as more or less covert expressions of antisemitism and/or Islamophobia? What is the relationship between secularism and race?

The complicated relationship between religion and race also impact on people's social positioning and self-identification, as for example research on white and non-white converts to Judaism and Islam or on Afro-Jews and Jews of Colour shows. How have specific geographical, historical, and national contexts shaped the relationship between religion and race? How do the intersections of race and religion impact social, legal, and political discourse and how are different minority religions and racialised groups played out against each other?

These are some of the questions and issues the workshop aims to explore by bringing together scholars from a range of different disciplinary, theoretical, and methodological perspectives.

If you have any questions, please write to Dr. Mareike Riedel, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Ethics, Law and Politics (riedel@mmg.mpg.de).



Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity
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Programme

Moderated by Benjamin Boudou, MPI Göttingen

Please note: Time in red refers to time in Germany. Schedule according to the time zone in other locations is indicated in the left-hand column (UK=GMT, US East Coast=EST, US West Coast=PST)

Wednesday, 9 December

16.15 – 17.45

15.15 – 16.45 (UK)
10.15 – 11.45 (US East Coast)
07.15 – 08.45 (US West Coast)

PUBLIC LECTURE

- Nasar Meer, University of Edinburgh

18.00 – 18.15

17.00 – 17.15 (UK)
12.00 – 12.15 (US East Coast)
09.00 – 09.15 (US West Coast)

WORKSHOP OPENING REMARKS

- Ayelet Shachar, MPI Göttingen/University of Toronto & Mareike Riedel, MPI Göttingen

18.15 – 19.45

17.15 – 18.45 (UK)
12.15 – 13.45 (US East Coast)
09.15 – 10.45 (US West Coast)

PANEL 1: QUESTIONING BOUNDARIES

- Juliette Galonnier, Sciences Po Paris
- Saher Selod, Simmons University
- Bruce Haynes, University of California, Davis

Chair: Maximilian Scholz, Florida State University

Thursday, 10 December

16.15 – 17.45

15.15 – 16.45 (UK)
10.15 – 11.45 (US East Coast)
07.15 – 08.45 (US West Coast)

PANEL 2: NATIONALISM, CITIZENSHIP, AND BELONGING

- Philip Gorski, Yale University
- Vanessa Rau, MPI Göttingen
- Yolande Jansen, University of Amsterdam

Chair: Ayelet Shachar, MPI Göttingen/University of Toronto

17.45 – 18.00

16.45 – 17.00 (UK)
11.45 – 12.00 (US East Coast)
08.45 – 09.00 (US West Coast)

BREAK

18.00 – 19.30

17.00 – 18.30 (UK)
12.00 – 13.30 (US East Coast)
09.00 – 10.30 (US West Coast)

PANEL 3: INTERSECTIONS OF RELIGION AND RACE IN LAW

- Nomi Stolzenberg, University of Southern California
- Suhraiya Jivraj, University of Kent
- Annalise Glauz-Todrank, Wake Forest University

Chair: Mareike Riedel, MPI Göttingen

19.30 – 19.45

18.30 – 18.45 (UK)
13.30 – 13.45 (US East Coast)
10.30 – 10.45 (US West Coast)

CONCLUDING REMARKS



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