

Issues concerning law and religion are never far from the news headlines around the world. Acts of terrorism committed in the name of religion; moral panics concerning the operation of religious courts; controversies about the relationship between freedom of expression and freedom of religion; disputes about the wearing of religious dress and symbols; the role of religion in marriage law and in the education system; and questions about the autonomy of religious groups are just some of the issues that continue to excite controversy in society at large.

The academic study of law and religion has become more visible and more important in recent years as a result of the same changes that have made the role of religion in the public sphere controversial. In 2007 this led to the establishment of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS) as an international network of scholars and experts of law and religion, with the aim to provide a place where information, data, and opinions could easily be exchanged among members and made available to the broader scientific community. Further information can be found on the website: <http://www.iclars.org/>

We have now established the ICLARS Series on Law and Religion in order to provide a forum for this rapidly expanding field of research in law and religion and to become a primary source for students and scholars while presenting authors with a valuable means to reach a wide and growing readership. It is intended that the book Series will publish both monographs and edited collections and will publish at least two books a year.

The Series Editors are: Professor Silvio Ferrari (University of Milan, Italy), coordinator; Professor Pieter Coertzen (University of Stellenbosch, South Africa); Professor Cole Durham (Brigham Young University, Provo, USA); Professor Tahir Mahmood (Amity International University, New Delhi, India); and Dr Russell Sandberg (Cardiff University, United Kingdom), manager.

We are supported by an Editorial Advisory Board which comprises of Professors Anver Emon, Asher Maoz, Benjamin Berger, Carolyn Evans, Domenico Francavilla, Gerhard Robbers, Juan Navarro Floria, Linda Woodhead, Liu Peng, Marie-Claire Foblets, Rajeev Bhargava, Renata Uitz, Richard Helmholz; and Willy Zeze. The composition of the Board underscores our ambition to produce an international, interdisciplinary and innovative series which is at the front of law and religion scholarship.

The Series welcomes proposals for monographs and edited collections on any matter falling under 'law and religion' widely defined. We welcome collections arising from important conferences and events and cutting-edge monographs by both established names and by new voices (including monographs based on doctoral dissertations). This includes interdisciplinary works and studies of particular jurisdictions.

The aspiration of the Series is shown by the books which are already under contract and which we hope to publish in 2015 and 2016. We intend publishing two volumes of papers from the last ICLARS conference edited by Cole Durham and Donlu Thayer. We will also be publishing a collection of papers from a conference on 'Religions and Constitutional Transitions in the Muslim Mediterranean' held at the University of Insubria, Como last June. The book, edited by Alessandro

Ferrari and James Toronto, will explore the role of Islam and religious freedom in the constitutional transitions of several North African and Middle Eastern countries and will employ an interdisciplinary approach to investigate the role of Islam as a political, institutional and societal force.

We also have two excellent monographs under contract. Francis Lyall's new book 'Church and State in Scotland' will provide an up to date exploration of the development and current state of the religion under Scots law. And Megan Pearson is currently writing a monograph based on her doctoral thesis which will explore the law relating to the clash of rights between freedom of religion and the prohibition of sexual orientation discrimination in England and Wales, Canada and the USA. Such disputes, which have included refusals to perform civil partnerships, to provide bed and breakfast accommodation to gay couples or to employ gay people in religious organisations, have often been acrimonious and high profile, receiving a great deal of public and media attention. Starting from the basis that both rights are valuable and should be protected as far as possible, Pearson argues that a new approach, based on proportionality, is required to resolve these disputes.

These books, of course, are just the beginning. We would welcome proposals for edited collections and monographs to be included in the Series. Please feel free to email SandbergR@cf.ac.uk or Alison Kirk, the Publisher at akirk@ashgatepublishing.com if you have any ideas about books that you would like us to consider for the Series, if you want further information about submitting a proposal or if you have any other queries.