



GRASSROOTSMOBILISE PUBLIC EVENT AND CONFERENCE

3-4 May 2018

Public event

Religion and Secularism: does the Court go too far - or not far enough?

Thursday, 3 May 2018, 17:30-20:00, Acropolis Museum

Speakers:

Professor Eva Brems
Judge Ann Power-Forde
Judge Christos Rozakis
Professor Joseph H. H. Weiler

Chair:

Effie Fokas

Synopsis: The European public square has, in the last twenty-five years and increasingly so, been inundated with controversies and debates around the place of religion in the public sphere. Against this backdrop the European Court of Human Rights has emerged to add its own voice and, in so doing, it has significantly influenced the terms of the debates.

Greece has a special place in the religion-related jurisprudence of the ECtHR: the *Kokkinakis v. Greece* case (1993) was the first in which a violation of religious freedom (Art.9) was found, and nearly 20% of all such violations found amongst 47 states are against the state of Greece. The ECtHR drew grassroots level attention in Greece in 2009 when it ruled that religious symbols (such as icons) should be removed from public schools (*Lautsi v. Italy*, 2009, a decision later reversed after several countries, including Greece, intervened on the matter). It may again enter the Greek public scene through debate on reform of religious education in public schools, currently a volatile political issue and one on which the ECtHR has ruled extensively and decisively – only not (yet) in the Greek context.

This event brings together former ECtHR judges and scholars to debate the question of whether the Court has gone too far, or not far enough, in its interventions on religion-related matters. The event is organised under the auspices of the European Research Council-funded Grassrootsmobilise Research Programme led by Dr. Effie Fokas. This event precedes a day-long conference showcasing research results which, in turn, will be followed by the presentation of the book *The Kokkinakis Papers: Taking Stock of 25 years of ECHR Jurisprudence on Freedom of Religion or Belief*.

Conference

Between state and citizen: religion at the ECtHR

Friday, 4 May 2018, 09:30–19:00, Aigli Zappeiou

09:30-09:45 **Welcome and introduction of Grassrootsmobilise - Effie Fokas**

09:45-11:30 **Negotiating religious pluralism in the shadow of the Court: Insights from Grassrootsmobilise**

Awareness of the Court and its case law - **Effie Fokas**

Legal status of religious minorities in the shadow of the Court - Greek and Turkish cases compared - **Ceren Ozgul** and **Margarita Markoviti**

Majorities react: the Court as a resource for majority faiths in *Lautsi* - **Pasquale Annichinno** and **Alberta Giorgi**

Grasstops v. grassroots perspectives on the *Sindicatul* case: from small-town feud to transnational strategy – **Liviu Andreescu** and **Mihai Popa**

Chair: **Dia Anagnostou**

Discussants: **Marco Ventura; Julie Ringelheim**

11:30-12:00 *Coffee break*

12:00-13:30 **Actors before the Court discussing the mobilisations at play**

Participants: **Panos Bitsaxis; Panayote Dimitras; Yannis Ktistakis; Andrea Williams**

Moderator: **Lisa Harms**

Discussants: **Christopher McCrudden**

13:30-15:15 *Lunch (a light lunch buffet will be provided)*

During the lunch break Christopher McCrudden will present his forthcoming book *Litigating Religions: an Essay on Human Rights, Courts, and Beliefs*

15:15-16:30 **Roundtable: ‘Do we need the ECtHR to protect religious freedom?’**

Participants: **Nicos Alivizatos; Malcolm Evans; Ronan McCrea; Grégor Puppinck; Brett Scharffs; Renáta Uitz; Lucy Vickers**

Moderator: **Cole Durham**

16:30-17:00 *Coffee break*

'The Kokkinakis Papers' Book Presentation Session and Reception*

17:00- 18:45 **Twenty-Five years of ECtHR Jurisprudence on Religion: Current challenges, lessons learned and lessons lost**

Strengthening the effectiveness of the ECtHR in the context of new (and old) nationalisms - **Jeremy Gunn**

The ECtHR and other human rights institutions in comparative perspective – **Ahmed Shaheed**

Presenting *Twenty-Five years of ECtHR Jurisprudence on Freedom of Religion or Belief* - **Silvio Ferrari**

Chair: **Grace Davie**

18:45 **Closing remarks:** Effie Fokas

19:00 **Reception** celebrating the publication of *The Kokkinakis Papers: Taking Stock of 25 years of ECHR Jurisprudence on Freedom of Religion or Belief*

* The 'Kokkinakis Papers' Book is not a product of Grassrootsmobilise; the Book Presentation Session is hosted by the International Center for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS) at Brigham Young University, and the Reception is co-hosted by ICLARS and Grassrootsmobilise.

Simultaneous translation from English to Greek will be available for the Public event, not for the Conference.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED for conference participation: register [here](#) by 27 April.

PARTICIPANTS

PUBLIC EVENT

Professor Eva Brems (Professor of Human Rights Law, Ghent University)

Judge Ann Power-Forde (Former Judge at the European Court of Human Rights; Attorney at law)

Judge Christos Rozakis (President of the Administrative Tribunal of the Council of Europe; Former Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights; Former Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece)

Professor Joseph H. H. Weiler (Joseph Straus Professor of Law, European Union Jean Monnet Chaired Professor, New York University (NYU); Co-Director, Jean Monnet Center for International and Regional Economic Law and Justice; Editor-in-Chief of the *European Journal of International Law*; Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Constitutional Law*)

Effie Fokas (Senior Research Fellow, ELIAMEP; Research Associate, Hellenic Observatory, London School of Economics (LSE))

CONFERENCE

Nicos Alivizatos (Professor of Constitutional Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)

Dia Anagnostou (Assistant Professor of Politics at Panteion University, Athens; Senior Research Fellow, ELIAMEP)

Liviu Andreescu (Associate Professor of Administration and Business, University of Bucharest)

Pasquale Annicchino (Research Fellow, ELIAMEP; Research Fellow at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EU)

Panos Bitsaxis (Attorney at law assigned to the Supreme Court of Greece)

Panayote Dimitras (European Humanist Federation Executive Board member)

Malcolm Evans (Professor of Public International Law and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, University of Bristol; Member and Chair of the UN Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture; Chair of the Meeting of Chairs of UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies; Member of the Foreign Secretary's Human Rights Advisory Group)

Alberta Giorgi (Research Fellow, ELIAMEP; Assistant Professor, Department of Letters, Philosophy and Communication, University of Bergamo)

Lisa Harms (PhD Candidate, Governance of Cultural Diversity Group, Max Planck Institute, Gottingen)

Yannis Ktistakis (Lawyer and senior partner at Ktistakis & Associates Law Firm; Assistant Professor of Public International Law, Faculty of Law, Democritus University of Thrace; Assistant Professor of Public International Law, Faculty of Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University)

Margarita Markoviti (Research Fellow, ELIAMEP; Research Fellow, Cevipol, Université Libre de Bruxelles)

Ronan McCrea (Senior Lecturer, University College London (UCL); Visiting Professor, Central European University)

Christopher McCrudden (William W. Cook Global Law Professor, Michigan Law; Professor of human rights and equality law, Queens University Belfast; Barrister-at-law with Blackstone Chambers)

Ceren Ozgul (Research Fellow, ELIAMEP; Visiting scholar at New York University's Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies)

Mihai Popa (Research Fellow, ELIAMEP; Associate Researcher, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology)

Grégor Puppinck (Director General, European Center for Law and Justice)
Julie Ringelheim (Professor of International Human Rights Law and Sociology of Law, Université Catholique de Louvain)
Brett Scharffs (Francis R. Kirkham Professor of Law, Brigham Young University Law School; Director of the Law School's International Center for Law and Religion Studies)
Renáta Uitz (Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law, Central European University)
Marco Ventura (Professor at the Department of Law of the University of Siena; Director, Center for Religious Studies (ISR) at the Bruno Kessler Foundation (FBK))
Lucy Vickers (Professor of Law, Oxford Brookes University)
Andrea Williams (CEO, Christian Concern)

'THE KOKKINAKIS PAPERS' BOOK PRESENTATION SESSION

Grace Davie (Professor Emeritus of Exeter University)
Cole Durham (Susa Young Gates University Professor of Law, Brigham Young University; Founding Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies)
Malcolm Evans (Professor of Public International Law and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, University of Bristol; Member and Chair of the UN Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture; Chair of the Meeting of Chairs of UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies; Member of the Foreign Secretary's Human Rights Advisory Group)
Silvio Ferrari (Professor of Law and Religion, University of Milan; Professor of Law and Religion, Catholic University of Leuven; Honorary President of ICLARS (International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies); Member of the Advisory Council on Freedom of Religion and Belief of the OSCE-ODIHR; Member of the Scientific Committee of the Institut européen en sciences des religions (EPHE, Paris))
Jeremy Gunn (Professor of Law and Political Science, Université Internationale de Rabat; Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory Law School)
Ahmed Shaheed (UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief)

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATING

Louis-Léon Christians (Chair of the Law of Religions, Université Catholique de Louvain)
Haldun Gulalp (Chair of the Global Studies and Class Strategies (GSCS) research group, in Istanbul, Turkey; Former Professor of Political Science at Yildiz Technical University)
Nikos Kokosalakis (Professor Emeritus of Liverpool University and Panteion University (Athens))