

EUL&RIT - JEAN MONNET MODULE: “THE EUROPEAN IMPACT ON LAW&RELIGION IN ITALY AND BEYOND”

CALL FOR PAPERS:

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER COVID-19 BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE MEMBER STATES

Young scholars’ forum | 26 November 2021 | University of Trieste

COVID-19 disrupted many aspects of public and private life. Among these, the impact of the pandemic on the exercise of religious freedoms makes no exception. Strict restrictions have been adopted all over Europe (and most of the world) with the aim of limiting social contacts and the widespread of contagion. Among the activities that have been restricted, the limitation of religious freedom generated particular criticism and concern. This is due to the fact that religious freedom in Europe is widely considered not only a matter of individual conscience, but as also entailing the freedom to manifest one’s religion, in private places, and, above all, together with others in public places. Moreover, the impact of pandemic put a great pressure on society, with losses and a great existential impact that emphasized the impact of restrictions of religious freedom (among the many example of particularly impacting restrictions one could mention the strict limitations applying to funerals in a time of sudden and lonely losses). However, the pandemic raised similar challenges to the exercise of most of constitutional rights and freedoms guaranteed in western constitutionalism. The forum aims at analyzing the main patterns that emerged in Europe (i.e. both the EU and the Member States of the ECHR) with regard to the balancing of religious freedom in pandemic times.

The EUL&RIT young scholars’ forum promotes an academic discussion around these challenges. The forum is organized with the support of the ERASMUS+ Program of the European Union, within the Jean Monnet Module on “The European Impact on Law&Religion in Italy and Beyond” in co-partnership with ORFECT (“Observatory on Religious Freedom in the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights” – www.orfect.net).

The aim of the forum is to convene young scholars (including doctoral candidates, post-docs, assistant professors and any scholar who self identifies as young scholar) and to connect them with more senior scholars in the field (including, but not limited to the members of the scientific committee), so to enhance discussion across generations of scholars, academic circles and disciplines.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Prof. Matej Avbelj (Nova Univerza, SLO)

Prof. Pierluigi Consorti (UniPI, IT)

Prof. Marco Croce (UniFI, IT)

Prof. Pietro Faraguna (UniTS, IT)

Prof. Vincenzo Pacillo (UniMORE, IT)

Prof. Diana zu Hohenlohe (S Freud, AU)

We welcome papers that address these and other issues related to Law&Religion in Europe in light of the contemporary challenges.

Among the topic of interests, the forum aims at addressing the following questions:

- 1) Is it possible to identify a European standard in the management of the pandemic crisis as far as limitations of religious freedom are concerned? If so, what is the essential core of this European standard, if compared with non-European alternative reactions to the pandemic (especially, but not limiting the analysis to, the US scenario)?
- 2) Does a model of European secularism emerge from the actions adopted by Member States, or, on the contrary, did each Member State react autonomously?
- 3) Did EU law or the ECHR played any role with regard to the limitation of religious freedom due to the restrictions aimed at limiting social contacts?
- 4) How did religious groups react? Did religious associations connected to the same religion react to the legal restrictions coherently across different Member States?

Main disciplinary areas potentially involved

Law&Religion, Constitutional Law, Administrative law, EU law, Criminal law, Religious studies, History, Political and Social Science, International Relations, History, Political Geography.

DEADLINES

31 July – Applications

1 September – Notification of acceptance

15 November – Conference drafts

26 November – Forum

How to apply

Candidates are invited to send their proposals via email by **31 July 2021** to pfaraguna@units.it.

Each proposal must include an abstract in **Italian or in English** (max 300 words) and a short bio (max 200 words). Successful candidates will be notified by **1 September 2021**. They will be required to submit their work-in-progress papers (between 5,000 and 10,000 words) by **15 November 2021**.

Costs

Upon selected participants' request, EUL&RIT can cover accommodation and travel expenses, totally or partially.

Publication

EUL&RIT and ORFECT will promote the publication of a revised version of the papers presented in a special issue or edited volume.

Selection process

The selection process will follow these criteria:

- Originality of the topic and/or of the scientific perspective
- Problematic rather than descriptive approach
- Interdisciplinary approach
- Methodological consistency and coherence
- Geographical and gender representation