



Picture: Affresco Schweizer

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON RELIGIONS

1-4 March 2023

Università Roma Tre
Dipartimento Scienze della Formazione
Via del Castro Pretorio, 20 | Rome

Organising Committee:
Irena Borowik, Roberto Cipriani, Grace Davie, Enzo Pace,
Philippe Portier, Helena Vilaça, Fenggang Yang, Siniša Zrinščak

PROGRAMME

Thursday 1st March 2023

9.00 | *Chair:* **Enzo Pace** (University of Padua)

Introduction by **Roberto Cipriani** (Roma Tre University)

Opening speech by **Patrice Brodeur** (University of Montreal)

Coffee break

11:00 | *Chair:* **Paul-André Turcotte** (University of Ottawa)

Lecture on “Judaism” by **Sergio Della Pergola** (Hebrew University-Jerusalem)

Discussants:

David Meghnagi (Roma Tre University),

Ephraim Tabory (Bar-Ilan University-Ramat Gan)

On-site catering

15.00 | *Chair:* **Paolo Naso** (Sapienza-Rome)

Lecture on “Christian Churches” by **José Casanova** (Georgetown University-Washington)

Discussants:

Anthony Blasi (St. Mary's University-San Antonio)

Franco Garelli (University of Turin)

Siniša Zrinščak (University of Zagreb)

Coffee break

17:00 | *Chair:* **Siniša Zrinščak** (University of Zagreb)

Lecture on “Sunni and Shia Islam” by **Farhad Khosrokhavar** (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales-Paris)

Discussants:

Enzo Pace (University of Padua),

Roberta Ricucci (University of Turin)

Thursday 2nd March 2023

9:00 | *Chair:* **Massimo Introvigne** (CESNUR-Turin)

Lecture on “Shinto” by **Mark R. Mullins** (University of Auckland)

Discussants:

Erica Baffelli (University of Manchester),

Massimo Raveri (Ca’ Foscari University-Venice)

Coffe break

11:00 | *Chair:* **Vincent Goossaert** (École Pratique des Hautes Études-Paris)

Lecture on “Confucianism” by **Anna Sun** (Duke University-Durham)

Discussants:

Ambrogio Selusi (University of Macerata),

Fenggang Yang (Purdue University-West Lafayette)

On-site catering

15:00 | *Chair:* **Mark R. Mullins** (University of Auckland)

Lecture on “Taoism” by **Vincent Goossaert** (École Pratique des Hautes Études-Paris)

Discussants:

Jacopo Scarin (Ca’ Foscari University-Venice)

Maurizio Paolillo (L’Orientale University-Naples)

Coffee break

17:00 | *Chair:* **Emma Tomalin** (University of Leeds)

Lecture on “Hinduism” by **Arvind Sharma** (McGill University-Montreal)

Discussants:

Prema Kurien (Syracuse University),

Federico Squarcini (Ca’ Foscari University-Venice)

Friday 3rd March 2023

9:00 | *Chair:* **Erica Baffelli** (University of Manchester)

Lecture on “Buddhism” by **Emma Tomalin** (University of Leeds)

Discussants:

Raphaël Liogier (Institut d'Études Politiques-Aix-en-Provence)

Lionel Obadia (Université Lumière Lyon 2)

Coffe break

11:00 | *Chair:* **Raphaël Liogier** (Institut d'Études Politiques-Aix-en-Provence)

Lecture on “Sikhism” by **Gurinder Singh Mann** (Global Institute for Sikh Studies-New York)

Discussants:

Samuele Davide Molli (University of Milan),

Jasjit Singh (University of Leeds)

On-site catering

15:00 | *Chair:* **Philippe Portier** (École Pratique des Hautes Études-Paris)

Lecture on “New Spirituality” by **Giuseppe Giordan** (University of Padua)

Discussants:

Stefania Palmisano (University of Turin)

Adriana Valente (CNR-IRPPS-Rome)

Helena Vilaça (University of Porto)

Raquel Weiss (University of Rio Grande do Sul)

Coffee break

17:00 | *Chair:* **Carlo Nardella** (University of Milan)

Lecture on “Digital Religion” by **Massimo Leone** (FBK-Trento, University of Turin)

Discussants:

Paolo Peverini (LUISS-Rome)

Piero Polidoro (LUMSA-Rome)

Alessandra Vitullo (Sapienza-Rome)

Saturday 4th March 2023

9:00 | Chair: Vittorio Cotesta (Roma Tre University)

Lecture on “Atheism” by **Lois Lee** (University of Kent)

Discussants:

Irena Borowik (Jagiellonian University-Krakow)

Philippe Portier (École Pratique des Hautes Études-Paris)

Coffe break

11:00 | Concluding discussion and approval of the final document

Conveners:

Grace Davie, Irena Borowik, Siniša Zrinščak, Fenggang Yang (chair)

Conclusion by **Emanuela C. Del Re**, European Union Special Representative

The lectures will be followed by an open discussion

Info: **roberto.cipriani@tlc.uniroma3.it**

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The Forum is sponsored by the Italian Episcopal Conference

World religions are no longer the same as in the more or less recent past. They seem to have changed internally, but also to be participating in the processes of globalization. Both, quantitatively (attendance at rituals, participation in activities, and contributions to institutional expenses) and qualitatively (intensity of belief, commitment to militancy, adherence to fundamental principles), there have been significant changes, which cannot be adequately understood with the traditional tools of scientific knowledge, but which require new approaches, for a more in-depth analysis.

The International Forum on Religions is an opportunity to recover and relaunch the supranational debate in the field of social science applied to the religious phenomenon, thanks to the participation of the most accredited and reliable scholars. Particularly worthy of attention is the new reality of knowledge about religions operating in the Asian world, which is not usually taken into account in the current debate. This is why the Forum represents an almost unique opportunity to revitalise the international debate on religions.



SPEAKERS

PATRICE BRODEUR

Patrice Brodeur is an expert in Islamic studies and comparative Abrahamic religions. His research has focused on the intersection between Islam, pluralism and globalisation, including issues of integration, radicalisation, and Islamophobia. In applied research, he has worked on different forms of dialogue as an approach to global conflict transformation: intra-religious, inter-religious, inter-cultural, inter-civilizational and inter-worldview, in particular how Muslims have contributed to contemporary transnational dialogue dynamics.

SERGIO DELLA PERGOLA

Born in Trieste, Sergio is the son of journalist Massimo Della Pergola (1912-2006). After the war, he and his family moved to Milan, where he was part of various Jewish youth organisations. After graduating from the University of Pavia, he emigrated to Israel in 1966. He teaches demography and population studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and is considered the foremost expert on the world's Jewish population, both Israeli and Diaspora. Della Pergola is Professor Emeritus at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, specialising in the demography of Judaism in the world and in Israel. He has written many essays and articles on demography, migration, Jewish identity and the Israeli and Palestinian populations. He has lectured at over 100 universities in Europe, North and Latin America, South Africa and Australia, and has been a consultant to the Israeli government, the Jerusalem municipality and Israel's Central Statistical Institute. He was member of the advisory committee of the Pew Research Center surveys of Jewish Americans, and of the European Union's FRA surveys of Experiences and perception of antisemitism. He taught at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Brandeis University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of California at Los Angeles, the Universidade de São Paulo and the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. He is a member of the Yad Vashem Commission for the Righteous Among the Nations.

JOSÉ CASANOVA

José Casanova is one of the world's leading scholars in the sociology of religion and a senior fellow at the Berkley Center, where his work focuses on globalization, religions, and secularization. He is also professor emeritus at Georgetown University, where he previously taught in the Department of Sociology and the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. During 2017 he was the Kluge Chair in Countries and Cultures of the North at the U.S. Library of Congress' John W. Kluge Center, where he worked on a book manuscript on Early Modern Globalization through a Jesuit Prism. He has published works on a broad range of subjects, including religion and globalization, migration and religious pluralism, transnational religions, and sociological theory. His best-known work, *Public Religions in the Modern World* (University of Chicago Press, 1994), has become a modern classic in the field and has been translated into several languages, including Japanese, Arabic, and Turkish. In 2012, Casanova was awarded the Theology Prize from the Salzburger Hochschulwochen in recognition of his life-long achievement in the field of theology.

FARHAD KHOSROKHAVAR

Farhad Khosrokhavar (Tehran, 21 March 1948) is an Iranian sociologist. Since 1998, he has been research director at EHESS, the École des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris. His research interests include political sociology, sociology of religion, contemporary Islam and Iran. From 1977 to 1979 he was an assistant professor at Bou Ali University in Hamadan, Iran and from 1979 to 1990 an associate professor at the Centre for Political Science, Ministry of Culture and Higher Education. In 1990-1991 he was Rockefeller Fellow and from 1991 to 1998 associate professor at EHESS-CADIS (Centre d'Analyse et d'Intervention Sociologiques).

MARK R. MULLINS

Mark R. Mullins is Professor of Japanese Studies and Director of the New Zealand Asia Institute's Japan Studies Centre at the University of Auckland. Prior to this appointment, he was engaged in academic work in Japan for twenty-seven years and taught at Shikoku Gakuin University, Meiji Gakuin University, and Sophia University. His teaching and research focus is on the role of Japanese religions in modern societies both within and outside of Japan. He is the author and co-editor of a number of works, including *Christianity Made in Japan: A Study of Indigenous Movements* (University of Hawai'i Press, 1998), *Disasters and Social Crisis in Contemporary Japan* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), and most recently *Yasukuni Fundamentalism: Japanese Religions and the Politics of Restoration* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2021). In 2019, he was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, by the Japanese Government in recognition of his contribution to the sociology of religion in Japan and the development of academic exchanges and mutual understanding between Japan and New Zealand.

VINCENT GOOSSAERT

Vincent Goossaert is a historian and professor at EPHE, PSL (Paris). He was a guest professor at Geneva University and Chinese University of Hong Kong. He works on the social history of modern Chinese religion, and has focused on Daoism, on religious specialists as professionals and social roles, on the politics of religion, and on the production of moral norms. He is codirecting an international project on "Religious Text Production and Identity Formation in China, 17th to 21st Centuries" (grants from DFG, Germany and ANR, France). He is coeditor of *T'oung Pao*, a major journal of Chinese studies. Recent publications include *Making the Gods Speak. The Ritual Production of Revelation in Chinese History* (Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 2022).

ARVIND SHARMA

Arvind Sharma was born on 13 January 1940 in Varanasi, India.

Sharma is the Birks Professor of Comparative Religion at McGill University. Sharma's works focus on Hinduism, philosophy of religion. In editing books his works include *Our Religions and Women in World Religions*, *Feminism in World Religions* was selected as a Choice Outstanding Academic Book (1999). He served in civil services in Gujarat until 1968 he went to US to pursue higher studies in economics at the Syracuse University, obtaining a Masters in economics in 1970. While pursuing the role of non-economic factors in economic development he became interested in religion and joined Harvard Divinity School in 1972. After obtaining a Masters in Theological Studies, he earned his PhD from the Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies in 1978. While at Harvard he was recruited in 1976 by the newly founded Department of Studies in Religion at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. In 1980 he moved to the University of Sydney. In 1994 he was appointed the Birks Professor of Comparative Religion at McGill University, where he teaches.

The archives fonds of Arvind Sharma is held at McGill University Archives (MUA).

EMMA TOMALIN

Emma Tomalin is the director of the Centre for Religion and Public Life and a senior lecturer in Religious Studies at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom. She has been a member of the American Academy of Religion's Committee for the Public Understanding of Religion since 2014. Her main research interests are focused around religions and global development and religion, gender, and society. Her articles have been published in *Oxford Development Studies* and *Gender and Development*, among others. Her most recent book is *The Routledge Handbook of Religions and Global Development* (2015); she is also the author of *Religions and Development* (2013) and *Gender, Faith and Development* (2011), among others, and co-editor of *Writing the City in British Asian Diasporas* (2014).

GURINDER SINGH MANN

Gurinder Singh Mann is a Punjabi-American scholar and professor of Sikh studies, and the author of multiple books on Sikh religion and society. Mann taught religion at Columbia University from 1988 to 1999 and then held the Kundan Kaur Kapany Chair in Sikh Studies from 1999 to 2015 at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He retired from Santa Barbara in 2015, and founded the Global Institute for Sikh Studies in New York City, which he presently directs. Mann studied for a master's degree in English from Baring Union Christian College in Batala, Punjab, from 1965 to 1971, and then completed a diploma in English Studies at the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages in Hyderabad, India, in 1975. He earned a second master's degree in English from the University of Kent at Canterbury, England, in 1976. From 1984 to 1987 he studied for Master of Theological Studies at Harvard University. He joined the doctoral program in Religion at Columbia University in 1987, and completed his Ph.D. there in 1993. Mann taught English at Baring Union Christian College, Batala from 1971 to 1984, religion at Columbia University from 1988 to 1999 and then held the Kundan Kaur Kapany Chair in Sikh Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara from 1999 to 2015.

GIUSEPPE GIORDAN

Giuseppe Giordan is Full Professor of Sociology at the University of Padova and Coordinator of the International joint PhD programme on Human Rights, Society and Multi-level Governance. His sociological research focuses on religious pluralism, spirituality, interreligious dialogue, religious freedom, and religions and human rights. Giordan specialised in the relationship between religion and culture with research in the United States (Princeton and Berkeley) and France (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris). He has published *Values and Social Change* (Rome, 2001), *Dall'uno al multiplice. Dispositivi di legittimazione nell'epoca del pluralismo* (Turin, 2003) and *Identity and Pluralism. The Values of Postmodernism* (New York, 2004).

MASSIMO LEONE

Massimo Leone is Director of the Centre for Religious Studies, Bruno Kessler Foundation. He is Tenured Full Professor of Philosophy of Communication, Cultural Semiotics, and Visual Semiotics at the Department of Philosophy and Educational Sciences, University of Turin, Italy, Vice-Director for research at the same University, and part-time Professor of Semiotics in the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, University of Shanghai, China, Associate Member of Cambridge Digital Humanities, Cambridge University. He has been visiting professor at several universities in the five continents. He has single-authored twelve books, edited more than thirty collective volumes, and published more than five hundred articles in semiotics, religious studies, and visual studies. He is the chief editor of *Lexia*, the Semiotic Journal of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Communication, University of Torino, Italy (SCOPUS). He is the winner of a 2018 ERC Consolidator Grant, the most prestigious research grant in Europe.

LOIS LEE

Lois Lee joined the Department of Religious Studies, University of Kent, in 2017 as a Research Fellow, becoming Senior Research Fellow in 2018 and Senior Lecturer in 2020. She is Principal Investigator on the Understanding Unbelief programme in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Kent, a landmark research programme into atheism, agnosticism and other forms of so-called unbelief around world, majorly funded by the John Templeton Foundation. Lois received a BA (Hons) in History from the University of Leeds and her MPhil and PhD in Sociology from the University of Cambridge, before taking up research and teaching roles at the University of Kent's Department of Religious Studies and UCL's School of Public Policy and Institute of Advanced Studies. Her early research focused on religious and nonreligious identities and ideology in relation to nineteenth century political thought, before moving on to contemporary sociological studies of people who are identified as nonreligious. Lois' doctoral research explored what it means to be nonreligious and argued that not only is nonreligious culture a present and influential force in contemporary societies but that its study also helps us to recognise the existential, meaning-making dimension to the lives of nonreligious people – something that the nonreligious and religious have in common.