

## **Presenters and Respondents, in order of appearance**

Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, Associate Professor, Northwestern University, Evanston IL

Professor Hurd teaches on the intersections of religion, law, and global politics at Northwestern University. She has a courtesy appointment in the religious studies department. Hurd is co-founder of the Middle East and North African Studies Program and directs the graduate certificate in religion and politics. She chairs the Religion and Politics section at the American Political Science Association.

Kari Telle, Senior Researcher, Christian Michelsen Institute, Bergen

Dr. Telle is a social anthropologist focusing on religion and ritual; popular Islam and Hinduism; religious minorities; security politics and policing; local justice and reconciliation, with particular emphasis on Indonesia. Telle has recently concluded two major research projects: *Regulating Religion: Secularism and Religious Freedom in the Global Era* (NFR/FRISAM, 2011-14) and *Searching for Security: Religious mobilization and the Politics of 'Insecurity' in Indonesia* (NFR, 2008-2012).

Markus Dressler, Associate Professor, Bayreuth University

Professor Dressler currently teaches Religious Studies at Bayreuth University. His work focuses on politics of religion and secularism with an empirical focus on Turkey. His academic publications include the monographs *Writing Religion: The Making of Turkish Alevi Islam* (Oxford University Press 2013), *Die alevitische Religion. Traditionslinien und Neubestimmungen* (Ergon 2002), as well as the co-edited volumes *Secularism and Religion-Making* (Oxford University Press 2011), and *Sufis in Western Society* (Routledge 2009).

Bjørn Ola Tafjord, Associate Professor, University of Tromsø

Professor Tafjord has extensive fieldwork experience from Talamanca in Costa Rica, and studies religions, traditions, relations and changes in Talamanca through additional fieldwork and historical research. His research interests also include religions in Latin America, the anthropological study of religion, and methodological issues in the study of religions. The latter is reflected in publications like the article "Indigenous religion(s) as an analytical category" in *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 25 (2013). Tafjord is currently engaged in the Research project *Indigenous religion(s) Local grounds, global networks* (NFR, 2015-2019).

Anthony Good, Professor Em, University of Edinburgh

Professor Good has conducted extensive field research South and Southeast Asia, both individually and on behalf of the UK's Department for International Development (DfID). He has also done substantial recent research in the UK, on the administrative and legal processes involved in claiming asylum. Good has frequently acted as an expert witness in asylum appeals in the UK, USA and Canada, mainly

involving Sri Lankan Tamils, and has published extensively on law and anthropology. Good recently concluded the research project *The Conversion of Asylum Applicants' Narratives into Legal Discourses in the UK and France: a Comparative Study of Problems of Cultural Translation*, and in 2013, he published a 'best practice' guide for the assessment of expert country evidence in asylum cases.

Helge Årsheim, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, University of Oslo

Dr. Årsheim defended his doctoral dissertation on religion in international law, *Lost in Translation? Religion-Making at Four UN Human Rights Committees, 1993-2013* in the spring of 2015, and started working with the GOBA project in June 2015. Årsheim has previously worked for the United Nations Association of Norway and the Norwegian Immigration Appeals Board. His research under the GOBA project explores the different ways in which law and policy 'formats' religion according to more or less clearly defined templates derived from majority religious traditions. Årsheim is also currently associated with the research project *Value Politics. The role of religion in foreign affairs*, and the Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief, where his work is mainly related to the increased politicization of the freedom of religion or belief globally.

Erin Wilson, Director, Centre for Religion, Conflict and the Public Domain, University of Groningen

Dr. Wilson's research focuses on the intersection of religion with various dimensions of politics and public life, at the local, national and global levels. She has published on religion and global justice, globalization, active citizenship and the politics of asylum in *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, *Global Society*, *Globalizations* and *Politics, Religion, Ideology*. Before joining the Faculty, Dr Wilson spent four years as a research fellow at RMIT University, Melbourne. Her current research interests include the relationship between religion and political apologies, climate change and political activism in an increasingly post-secular age. Her books include *After Secularism: Rethinking Religion in Global Politics*, and *Justice Globalism: Ideology, Crises, Policy*, co-authored with Manfred B. Steger and James Goodman.

Lori Beaman, Professor, University of Ottawa

Professor Beaman has published extensively on the topic of law and religion, and currently heads the 7-year *Religion and Diversity* Project. This project explores the ways in which society defines religion and how these definitions are translated into interpretations of religious freedom. In the process of this exploration, researchers in the project take a closer look at the theoretical underpinnings of the limitation of religious freedom as it is currently viewed by Canada's courts. The project's main contribution is to identify in detail the contours of religious diversity in Canada and the potential benefits of approaches to diversity that promote substantive or deep equality and move beyond tolerance and accommodation. The comparative research

focus places Canada in the context of other Western democracies and identifies global patterns in responses to religious diversity.

Inger Furseth, Professor, University of Oslo

Professor Furseth has published extensively on theoretical and methodological approaches to religion within sociology, and is one of the leading sociologists of religion in Norway. She recently concluded the major Nordic research project *The role of religion in the public sphere. A comparative study of the five Nordic countries* (NOREL), which compared religious changes during the past twenty years in Denmark, Finland, Norway, Iceland, and Sweden. She recently edited and published the first summary of the findings in the Norwegian section of the NOREL project, entitled *Religionens tilbakekomst i offentligheten? Religion, politikk, medier, stat og sivilsamfunn i Norge siden 1980-tallet* (2015).

David Herbert, Professor, Kingston University, London

Professor Herbert's research engages the relationship between religion, media and civil society. He is currently engaged in two research projects, *Engaging with Conflicts in Mediatized Religious Environments*, studying the intertwined role of media and religion in conflicts and tensions in contemporary Norway and the other Scandinavian societies, and *Cultural Conflict 2.0*, investigating the impact of media of different kinds and scales on the local politics of diversity in religiously and culturally plural areas of several European cities.

Amelie Barras, Assistant Professor, York University, Toronto

Professor Barras researches the relationship between politics, religion, gender and law in and beyond Canada. She recently published her first book, in which she documented the work of activists fighting headscarf bans in France and Turkey: *Refashioning Secularisms in France and Turkey. The case of the headscarf ban* (2014). She is currently working on a collaborative project on Islam in Canada with Jennifer Selby (Memorial University) and Lori Beaman (University of Ottawa), and teaches in the department of Social Science at York University in the Law and Society Program.