

Reading Group – Lent Term 2014: “Religion and Public Life”

The VHI reading group is designed for researchers and PhD students in politics, history, sociology or divinity and is open to all those who are interested in exploring the interactions between religion and democratic politics and the way religious values and identities affect political outcomes in a democratic context, in terms of both individual action and institutional change.

The group meets during Lent Term in St Edmund’s College (Okinaga Room) and will be led by research students.

Please note that most of the readings are available online on [Google Books](#). The following text are available to download on the VHI website:

- Casanova, J., *Public religions in the modern world*. Chicago University Press. Chicago, 1994. Introduction
- Dalton, R., *Religion and party alignment*, in Sankiah, R. et al. (ed.), *People and other polities*. Finnish Political Science Association. Helsinki, 1990

For more information please contact Lilia Giugni: lg433@cam.ac.uk

Programme and reading list

Meeting 1: Thursday, 16 January 2014 (14:00 – 16:00)

Secular vs. post-secular?

Themes: secularization or re-enchantment (de-privatization and re-politicization of religion)? American and/or European exceptionalism? Main features of the contemporary debate.

Core reading:

- Cox, H. *The Future of Faith*, HarperCollins, New York, 2009. Chapter 1.
- Bruce, S., *God is Dead: Secularization in the West*. Blackwell Publishing. Oxford, 2002. Chapter 1.

Further reading:

- Taylor, C. , *A Secular Age*. Harvard University Press. Cambridge, MA, 2007.
- Davie, G., *Religion in modern Europe: a memory mutates*. Oxford University Press. Oxford, 2000.
- Herbert, D., *Religion and Civil Society*. Open University Press. Milton Keynes, 2003.
- Byrnes, T.A. and Katzenstein, P.J. (ed.), *Religion in an Expanding Europe*. Cambridge University Press. New York, 2006.
- Cox, H. *The Secular City*, The MacMillan Company, 1965.
- Berger, P., *The sacred canopy: Elements of a sociological theory of religion*. Anchor. Garden City, NY, 1969.
- Berger, P.L., *The Desecularization of the World: Resurgent Religion and World Politics*, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1999.

Meeting 2: Thursday, 13 February (Changed Time: 15:00 – 17:00)

Religion and public life, between empirical analyses and theoretical attempts

Themes: influence of religion on political outcomes: impact of religious institutions; effects in terms of voting behavior. Review of classical theories and recent cross-national inquiries.

Core reading:

- Jelen, T. and Wilcox, C. (ed.), *Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective: The One, the Few and the Many*. Cambridge University Press. New York, 2002. Chapter 1.
- Inglehart, R. and Norris, P., *Sacred and Secular. Religion and Politics Worldwide*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge, 2004. Chapter 4.

Further reading:

- Fox, J., *An Introduction to Religion and Politics. Theory and Practice*. Routledge. London, 2012.
- Lenski, G.E., *The Religious Factor. A Sociological Study of Religion's Impact on Politics, Economics, and Family Life*. Anchor. New York, 1961.
- Broughton, D. and Napel, H.M. (ed.), *Religion and mass electoral behavior in Europe*. Routledge. London, 2000.

Meeting 3: Thursday, 20 February 2014 (14:00 – 16:00)

Religion, parties and party systems

Themes: how religious cleavages concurred to shape Western party systems. Current significance of religion in explaining political parties' alignment, identity, electoral strategies.

Core reading:

- Dalton, R., *Religion and party alignment*, in Sankiah, R. et al. (ed.), *People and other politics*. Finnish Political Science Association. Helsinki, 1990.
- Janda, K., *Regional and Religious Support of Political Parties and Effects on Their Issue Positions*, *International Political Science Review*, Vol. 10, No. 4, October 1989.

Further reading:

- Rokkan S. and Lipset, M., *Party systems and voter alignments: cross-national perspectives*. Free Press. Toronto, 1967.
- Kalyvas, S. *The rise of Christian Democracy in Europe*. New York Cornell University Press. Ithaca, 1996.
- Warner, C.M., *Confessions of an Interest Group: The Catholic Church and Political Parties in Europe*. Princeton Univ. Press. Princeton, NJ, 2000.
- Rosenblum, N.L., *Religious Parties, Religious Political Identity, and the Cold Shoulder of Liberal Democratic Thought*, in *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, Vol.6, No.1, March 2003.

Meeting 4: Thursday, 27 February 2014 (14:00 – 16:00)

Religion and public life: a normative perspective

Themes: compatibility and intermingling of religion and democratic politics. Discussion of religion's role in the success or failure of democracy.

Core reading:

- Habermas, J., *Religion in the public sphere*, in *European Journal of Philosophy*, n. 14. 2006.
- Casanova, J., *Public religions in the modern world*. Chicago University Press. Chicago, 1994. Introduction.

Further reading:

- Cameron, A., *Christianity and the Rhetoric of Empire: The Development of Christian Discourse*. University of California Press. Berkeley/Los Angeles/London, 1994.
 - Ott, M., *The Future of Religion: Toward a Reconciled Society*. Brill. Leiden and Boston, 2007.
 - Billings, D. and Scott, S.L., *Religion and political legitimation*. *Annual Review of Sociology* 20: 173–234, 1994.
 - Bruce, S., *Politics and Religion*. Polity. Malden, MA, 2003.
 - Habermas, J. 'A Post-secular society: what does that mean?'
- <http://www.resetdoc.org/story/00000000926>

Meeting 5: Thursday 13 March (14:00 – 16:00)

A case study: religion and politics in the United Kingdom

Themes: in-depth examination of the British case. Relationship between state and churches; relevance of religion in public life; religious components in the national and partisan political culture.

Core reading:

- Kotler-Berkowitz, L., *Religion and voting behavior in Great Britain*, in *British Journal of Political science*, n. 31, 2001.
- Baker, C.R., Graham, E.L., Manley Scott, P., *Remoralizing Britain?: Political, Ethical and Theological Perspectives on New Labour: Social, Ethical and Theological Perspectives on New Labour*. Continuum. London, 2009. Chapter 1.
- Seawright, D. *The British Conservative Party and One Nation Politics*. Continuum. New York, 2010. Chapter 8.

Further reading:

- Avis, P. (ed.). *Public Faith? The State of Beliefs and Practices in Britain*. SPCK. London, 2003.
- Hempton, D., *Religion and political culture in Britain and Ireland*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge, 1996.
- Davies, C., *The Strange Death of Moral Britain*. Transaction Publishers. New Brunswick, 2004.