

Description of Conference Theme

The conference aims at investigating the role and the place of religion in the present constitutional transitions in the Islamic Mediterranean area. In particular, the conference aims at analyzing how Islam influences and is influenced by the constitutional changes that are taking place in majority Islamic Mediterranean countries. Particular emphasis will be placed on the interaction of Islam and state legal systems in these countries and the role that the latter give to religious political parties, religious laws, and religious freedom.

The conference will pay special attention to experience with rule by Islamic-oriented political parties in recent transitional contexts.

It will investigate how, in these countries, religious political forces have dealt with the challenges of pluralism, both at the constitutional level and in ordinary legislation.

The effort will be to analyze pressing concerns flowing from increasing pluralism for states, religions and societies and the consequences for their normative systems.

The conference will focus on three principal topics: 1) the role of Islamic political parties, and more generally, on the extent to which religion is allowed to play a role in political processes; 2) the place of religious freedom in constitutional evolution and 3) the treatment of religious minorities, both as an object and a subject of political and legal debate.

The conference will focus in greater depth on selected countries, but will place this analysis in the framework of investigation of a broader range of MENA countries, aiming on one hand to investigate specific developments in considerable depth, while also providing a context sufficiently broad to identify ideal types that can help provide a conceptual framework for analysis of national cases.

The REDESM – Mission and Objectives

*In the marvelous location of Como, which provides for ideal and stimulating space for intellectual interchange, the Research Centre “**Religion, Law and Economy in the Mediterranean Area**” (“**Religioni, Diritti ed Economie nello Spazio Mediterraneo**” - **REDESM**), established within the University of Insubria, aims to foster and develop research, knowledge exchange and education projects related to **religious pluralism** in the Mediterranean area, with the objective of achieving a better mutual knowledge among different religions, cultures and societies living in this key geopolitical region. With the interdisciplinary approach that stems from the unique expertise of the Department of Law, Economy and Cultures of the University of Insubria (Como), whose activities include courses in Law, Economy and subjects pertaining to social, cultural and linguistic pluralism, the Centre takes a special interest in the challenges of religious diversity in contemporary societies, both from a legal and a socio-economic perspective.*

Fostering a deeper insight into the different issues related to religious pluralism, the Centre seeks to strengthen dialogue and cooperation, in pursuit of common cultural grounds and of peaceful coexistence in the Mediterranean. The Centre will also serve as a research-forum for the discussion of current issues and as a gathering point for people interested in these topics.

Research projects, publications, and education projects will be among the main activities of the Centre, in order to promote knowledge of implications and impacts of religious pluralism in the Mediterranean countries and to disseminate information and research results. Intellectual, cultural and research exchange will be promoted through web-pages, seminars, conferences, public debates, courses, Summer school and other scientific and education activities.

All the objectives of the Centre are pursued within a perspective of mutual understanding, respect and appreciation of diversity, seeking a shared interpretation of fundamental rights granted at the International level.



Religions and Constitutional Transitions in the Muslim Mediterranean: “The Pluralistic Moment”



Co-sponsored by the
*International Center for Religion,
Law and Economy
in the Mediterranean Area,
Insubria University*

and the
*International Center for Law
and Religion Studies,
Brigham Young University*

Como, Italy - June 3-5, 2014
Università degli Studi dell'Insubria
Via Sant'Abbondio, 12 - Aula Magna

Tuesday, June 3

Moderator: Giorgio Conetti (Università degli Studi dell'Insubria)

10.00-11.00 Conference Welcome and Introduction

11.00: Lectiones Magistrales

Yadh Ben Achour (President of Tunisia's [Higher Political Reform Commission](#)) *Le compromis historique entre État Civil et religion dans le néo-constitutionnalisme arabe post révolutionnaire*

Silvio Ferrari (Università degli Studi di Milano) *Religion(s), Religious Freedom and State Transformations: the European Side*

13.00: Lunch

14.30: **Islam in Italy: an Italian Model? The Inter-University International Forum for Democracy & Religion**

Moderator: Grazia Mannozi (Università degli Studi dell'Insubria)

14.30-15.00: Intervento del Sottosegretario al Ministero degli Affari Esteri **Benedetto Della Vedova**

15-15.30: Cultural and Religious Integration: the Italian Way (**Roberta Ricucci**, Università degli Studi di Torino- Fieri)

15.30-16.00: Islam in Italy: Sociological Framework (**Stefano Allievi**, Università degli Studi di Padova)

16.00-16.30: Islam en Italie: les difficultés de la liberté religieuse (**Roberto Mazzola**, Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale)

16.30: Break

17.00-18.30: Video: The FIDR Experience: Training for Leaders of Muslim Associations.
Debate coordinated by **Paolo Branca** (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano)

20.00: Dinner

Social Event:

Concert in the cloister of S. Abbondio

Wednesday, June 4

Moderateur: Giorgio Grasso (Università degli Studi dell'Insubria)

9.30-10.00: Introduction: Dynamiques de la liberté religieuse dans la région méditerranéenne (**Alessandro Ferrari**, (Università degli Studi dell'Insubria)

10.00-12.00: National Cases – Egypt

- 10.00-10.20: Religion and Constitution, **Adel Omar Sherif** (Deputy Chief Justice of the [Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt](#));
- 10.20-10.40: Partis politiques religieux, **Wael Rady** (Chief Judge, Economic Court of Cairo);
- 10.40-11.00: Religious Freedom, **Amr Abdel Rahman** (The American University in Cairo)

11.00-11.30: Break

11.30-11.50: Discussant: **David Risley** (U. S. Department of Justice)

11.50-12.20: Discussion on Egypt

13.00-14.30: Lunch

14.30-16.30: Cas Nationaux -Tunisie

Moderateur: Francesco Margiotta Broglio (Unesco - Università degli Studi di Firenze)

- 14.30-14.50: Religion et Constitution, **Ghazi Gherairi** (Université de Carthage)
- 14.50-15.10 : Partis politiques religieux, **Chérif Ferjani** (MSH Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée)
- 15.10-15.30 : Liberté religieuse, **Jinan Limam**, (Université de Tunis)

Discussant: 15.30-15.50 : **Massimo Campanini** (Università degli Studi di Trento)

15.50-16.30: Débat sur le cas tunisien

16.30-17.00: Break

17.00-18.45: National Cases -Turkey

Moderator: Umberto Galmarini (Università degli Studi dell'Insubria)

- 17.00-17.20: Religion and Constitution, **Emre Oktem** (Galatasaray University, Istanbul)
- 17.20-17.40: Religious Political Parties, **Ihsan Yilmaz** (Fatih University, Istanbul)
- 17.40-18.00: Religious Freedom, **Talip Kucuckan** (Institute for Middle East Studies, Marmara University)

Discussant: 18.00-18.20: **Rossella Bottoni** (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano)

18.20-18.45: Discussion on Turkey

20.00: Dinner

Thursday, June 5

9.00-10.30: Cas Nationaux - Maroc

Moderateur: Jeremy Gunn (Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane)

9.00-9.20: Constitution and Religion, **Driss Maghraoui** (Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane)

9.20-9.40: Partis politiques religieux, **Amal Idrissi** (Moulay Ismail University, Meknès)

9.40-10.00: Liberté religieuse, **Mohammed Mouaquit** (Université Hassan II, Casablanca)

Discussant: 10.00-10.20: **Roberta Aluffi** (Università di Torino)

10.20-10.45: Débat sur le cas marocain

10.45-11.15: Break

Moderator: Fabrizio Vismara (Università degli Studi dell'Insubria)

11.15- 12.45: National Cases - Jordan, Palestine, and Algeria

- 11.15-11.35: Le cas algérien, **Souad Ghaouti** (Université d'Alger)
- 11.35-11.55: The Jordan case , **Mohammad Abu Rumman** (Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan)
- 11.55-12.15: Le cas palestinien, **Moussa Abou Ramadan** (MISHA-CNRS Strasbourg)

12.15-12.30: Discussant: **Anne Fornerod** (MISHA-CNRS Strasbourg)

12.30-12.45: Discussion

12.45-13.15: Concluding Remarks,
Cole Durham - Alessandro Ferrari



Centro di Cultura Scientifica
"Alessandro Volta"
Organizing Secretariat