

RELIGIOUS AND SECULARISTIC CONCEPTS OF UNIVERSALISM/ PARTICULARISM

Religions such as Christianity, Judaism and Islam have universalistic potentials; at the same time, they have manifold traditions of confining morality to the internal life of religious and political communities. Secular universalism arose not least from the effort to construct a universalistic morality beyond all confessional traditions out of the factual particularism of religions.

Religious and secular-humanist justifications of universalism intertwined since the Enlightenment. Since the Romantic period, a close connection of religious and secular particularist semantics can also be observed. The conference is especially interested in religious or secular concepts that have acquired political relevance in recent contemporary history.

The conference also studies the competition of liberal, at least superficially secular designs of political orders (e.g. the Charter of Paris 1990 or the model of economic globalization) with religiously charged models of order in contemporary European history.

Universalist religious concepts often reject neoliberal economic globalization and the primacy of free markets. Specific foci and the extent of this critique, as well as designs for alternative orders, vary widely: from a discussion of the restriction of markets to the conception of alternative global economic institutions. Particularist religious discourses, on the other hand, often support particularist economic practices.

CONTACT

KFG Coordination Office

Lena Lopatschowa, M.A.
and Dr. Isabella Schüler-Pfeuffer
kfg20@lrz.uni-muenchen.de
+49 89 2180-1851

Follow us on
twitter.com/KFGUniversalism



Funded by
DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation



First conference of
the Center for Advanced
Studies (KFG)
“Universalism and
Particularism in
European Contemporary
History”

Religious and Secularistic Concepts of Universalism/ Particularism

25–26 May 2023

Seidlvilla
Nikolaipplatz 1b
80802 Munich



PROGRAMME
THURSDAY, 25 MAY 2023

10.00–10.15

Welcome and introduction:
Martin Schulze Wessel (Munich)

PANEL 1

Chair: **Martin Schulze Wessel** (Munich)

10.15–11.15

José Casanova (Washington, D.C.)
Mutual, Secular and Religious, Exclusive Claims to Universalism

Hans Joas (Berlin, Chicago)
The Emergence of Moral Universalism in the Axial Age. Contours of a Contemporary Debate

11.15–11.45

Discussion

11.45–13.00 — Lunch Break

PANEL 2

Chair: **Kiran K. Patel** (Munich)

13.00–14.00

Brian Van Wyck (Baltimore)
Muslimizing, Secularizing, Nationalizing: Universalism and Particularism in the Turkish Diaspora

Mateusz Majman (Munich)
From Universal to Particular: the Transformation of Holocaust Memory among the Mountain Jews after the Collapse of the Soviet Union

14.00–14.30

Discussion

14.30–15.00 — Coffee Break

PANEL 3

Chair: **Andreas Wirsching** (Munich)

15.00–16.30

Hélène Miard-Delacroix (Paris)
The Evolution of French Laïcité: from a Political Pattern to a Secular Key Concept of Living Together in a Multicultural Society

Heléna Tóth (Bamberg)
“If we can do what the church can!”
The Competition for Structuring the Emotions of the “Socialist New Man” in the 1960s in Central Europe

Johannes Gleixner (Munich)
“Politicizing Secularity”: Universalism as a Tool for Political Particularism

16.30–17.00

Discussion

17.00–18.00 — Break

KEYNOTE LECTURE

18.00–18.45

John Connelly (Berkeley):
Nation as Tragedy: the Story of East and Central Europe

18.45–19.30

Discussion

20.00

Dinner
(Georgenhof, Friedrichstraße 1, Munich)

PROGRAMME
FRIDAY, 26 MAY 2023

PANEL 4

Chair: **José Casanova** (Washington, D.C.)

09.00–10.00

Marta Bucholc (Warsaw)
The Historical Dynamics of Universalism and Particularism in the Discursive Framings of the Figure of John Paul II in Poland

Zdeněk R. Nešpor (Prague)
Saving the Nation via Religion, or Religious Elements in Czech and Slovak Neo-nationalisms

10.00–10.30

Discussion

10.30–10.45 — Coffee Break

PANEL 5

Chair: **Marta Bucholc** (Warsaw)

10.45–11.45

Nadieszda Kizenko (Albany)
Human Rights and Values Discourses in the Russian Orthodox Church

Nikolay Mitrokhin (Bremen)
Transregional and Universal Religious Orientation versus State Expectations of Loyalty. Orthodoxy in Ukraine from World War II to the Present

11.45–12.15

Discussion

12.15–12.45

Concluding discussion

12.45–13.45 — Lunch