



SPS Workshop

## ***Theoretically found, conceptually lost: How (not) to study the politics of religion***

**Florence, 3-4 June 2011**

Badia Fiesolana, Sala del Capitolo

*Keynote Speaker: Prof. Elizabeth Shakman Hurd (Northwestern University)*

*Chair: Prof. Olivier Roy (European University Institute)*

*Convenors: Maria Birnbaum (EUI), A. Alexander Stummvoll (EUI)*

Religion is back in the academic study of politics and international relations. Interestingly, the research agenda is becoming increasingly bifurcated. One set of scholars, following Max Weber, bracket the meaning and definition of religion and focus on the political 'function', 'role', or 'impact' of religious ideas and actors. Another set of scholars have turned this traditional research agenda up-side down by focusing on the social construction, and underlying power relations, which inform the various ways in which categories such as 'the religious', 'the political', or 'the secular' are defined and understood. Should these two research agendas continue to be conducted on separate tracks? Or is it possible 'bridge the gap'? If yes, how can this be done without reifying overly ideological or unreflective definitions of 'religion' or 'politics'? And what does this all mean for particular research puzzles which doctoral researchers tend to ask? This will be the overarching theme of the fourth annual student-run workshop on religion and politics hosted by the Department of Political and Social Sciences (SPS) of the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence.

More concretely, the workshop's purpose is to bring together various EUI researchers whose research falls into the area of 'religion and politics', broadly understood. In accordance with the general philosophy behind student-run SPS workshops, participants are not necessarily expected to present fully-fledged papers. Rather, the main emphasis will be on the presentation and critical discussion of the most pressing theoretical and methodological which doctoral researchers are facing in the preparation of their doctoral theses in the field of religion and politics. This year's keynote speaker will be [Prof Elizabeth Shakman Hurd](#) (Northwestern University), author of the seminal book [The Politics of Secularism in International Relations](#), published in 2008 by Princeton University Press. The workshop will be chaired by Prof. Olivier Roy. The co-convenors of the EUI Religion and Politics Working Group (RPWG), Maria Birnbaum ([maria.birnbaum@eui.eu](mailto:maria.birnbaum@eui.eu)) and A. Alexander Stummvoll ([a.stummvoll@eui.eu](mailto:a.stummvoll@eui.eu)) are in charge of organisation.

For SPS researchers: To gain the workshop's 10 credits you will be expected to read all circulated papers, attend all 10 hours of the workshop, and actively participate in discussions.



## Draft Programme

### Friday, 3 June 2011

9.00 – 9.15 Prof Olivier Roy (EUI-SPS/RSC)

*Welcome*

9.15 – 11.00 Prof Elizabeth Shakman Hurd (Northwestern University)

*Keynote speech: Religion and Global Politics after Secularism*

Discussant: Prof Christian Reus-Smit (EUI)

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.45 Frank O'Connor (SPS1)

*The impact of violence on political mobilisation: The PKK in Turkey and the Islamist Insurgency in Algeria*

Discussant: Patrick Herron (SPS1)

12.45 – 14.00 Lunch Break

14.00 – 15.15 Mara Tedesco (SPS1)

*Studying sohbet: a methodological consideration*

Discussant: Jana Warkotsch (SPS2)

15.15 – 16.30 M. Cenap Aydin (Istituto Tevere)

*Revisiting 'Laiklik': Secular State and Religious Minorities in Turkey*

Discussant: Prof Elizabeth Shakman Hurd

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee Break

17.00 – 18.15 Teije Hidde Donker (SPS2)

*The Resurgence of Islamism - post-revolutionary movements in Tunisia*

Discussant: Dr Nadia Marzouki (EUI-RSC)

20.00 Dinner (Place tbd)

### Saturday, 4 June 2011

09.30 – 10.45 A. Alexander Stummvoll (SPS3)

*'A living tradition': The Holy See, Global Politics, and Catholic Social Thought, 1965-2000*

Discussant: Dr Pasquale Annicchino (EUI/RSC)

10.45 – 11.15 Coffee break

11.15 - 12.30 Maria Birnbaum (SPS1)

*Recognizing the ghost: The tension between the twin imperatives of deconstruction and inclusion of religion in international relations*

Discussant: Prof Elizabeth Shakman Hurd

12.30 – 13.00 Tour de table



### **List of Participants**

Prof Elizabeth Shakman Hurd (Northwestern University)

Prof Christian Reus-Smit (EUI-SPS)

Prof Olivier Roy (EUI-SPS/RSC)

Dr Pasquale Annicchino (EUI-Robert Schuman Centre)

Dr Nadia Marzouki (EUI-Robert Schuman Centre)

A. Alexander Stummvoll (EUI-SPS3)

Teije Hidde Donker (EUI-SPS2)

Jana Warkotsch (EUI-SPS2)

Maria Birnbaum (EUI-SPS1)

Martyn Egan (EUI-SPS1)

Konstantinos Eleftheriadis (EUI-SPS1)

Patrick Herron (EUI-SPS1)

Frank O'Connor (EUI-SPS1)

Mara Tedesco (EUI-SPS1)

Jonathan Zaragoza (EUI-SPS1)

M. Cenap Aydin (Istituto Tevere/Rome)

Simon McMahon (Centre for European Studies, King's College London)