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Dipartimento di Scienze Sociali, Politiche e Cognitive – DISPOC

PRIN PNRR 2022 Project on “Identitarian Public Law: Dynamics of Illiberal Exclusion and Democratic Inclusion” - Universities of Pisa Sant’Anna, Bologna, Foggia and Siena

The “Christian Element” in Identitarian Public Law Law and Religion Perspectives

June 26th-27h, 2025

Siena, Mattioli Building

Via Mattioli 10, Fourth floor, Sala Consiliare

In person only

Free registration at marco.ventura@unisi.it

June 26th, 2025

First Session

Chair: Susanna Mancini

14:00 Welcome greetings from University of Siena authorities and the principal investigator of the project “Identitarian Public Law” Giacomo Delledonne

14:15 Introduction. Matteo Corsalini and Marco Ventura

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14:30 Keynote 1. Massimo Faggioli, *This new 'Catholic Moment' and regime change in the USA of Donald Trump*. Q&A

15:30 *Coffee break*

16:00 Report Hungary. Balázs Schanda and discussion (discussant: Francesco Biagi)

17:00 Report Israel. Joseph David and discussion (discussant: Patrizia Vigni)

18:00 Keynote 2. Sabrina Cavatorto. *Religious issues in EU Parliamentary debates. Plenary discussions from the current and previous legislatures*. Q&A

18:45 End

June 27th, 2025

Second Session

Chair: Leonardo Pierdominici

9:30 Report Russia. Cyril Hovorun and discussion (discussant: Giuseppe Martinico)

10:30 Report France. Anne-Laure Zwilling and discussion (discussant: Sabrina Cavatorto)

11:30 *Break*

12:00 Report Brazil. Donizete Rodrigues and discussion (discussant: Agostino Araneo)

13:00 *Lunch break*

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Third Session

Chair: Anne-Laure Zwillling

14:30 Roundtable on perspectives from Protestant, Orthodox and Catholic churches. Cristiana Cianitto, Lina Papadopoulou and Pamela Slotte Russo.
General discussion

16:30 Final Remarks. Pasquale Annicchino

17:00 End



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Speaker bios

Pasquale Annicchino

Pasquale Annicchino, Ph.D., LL.M., is an Associate Professor of Law at the University of Foggia, Italy where he teaches Ethics and Regulation of AI and Religious Data and Privacy. In 2023/2024 he was also Visiting Professor of Law at Central European University in Vienna where he taught a course on Global Law and Religion. He has also been an adjunct professor of law at Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School and at St. John's University School of Law and visiting professor of law at FGV-Direito Rio in Rio de Janeiro. He has been a member of the OSCE/ODIHR panel of experts on freedom of religion or belief and, upon appointment by the Italian Minister of Interior he also has been a member for several years of the Italian Council for the relationships with Islam. He has published, among others, for the following journals: *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*, *First Amendment Law Review*, *European Public Law*, *BYU Law Review*, *Politics & Religion*. He is currently deputy-PI of the research project "*Identitarian public law: dynamics of illiberal exclusion and democratic inclusion*" financed by the Italian Ministry for University and Research and is working on a book on the interaction of law and religion in the digital transition.

Agostino Araneo

Agostino holds a law degree from Bocconi University in Milan and is currently a research fellow at the University of Foggia within the project "*Identitarian Public Law: Dynamics of Illiberal Exclusion and Democratic Inclusion*". At the same time, he is pursuing a PhD in Comparative Constitutional Law at the University of Teramo and serves as a Teaching Assistant in Comparative Constitutional Law at Bocconi University. As part of his academic training, he has recently completed an internship at the Italian Constitutional Court, gaining direct insight into constitutional adjudication and institutional dynamics. His research interests focus on the legal systems of sub-Saharan Africa, particularly the processes of constitutionalization and democratic inclusion in post-colonial contexts. In this framework, Agostino carried out a research stay at the Institute for International and Comparative Law at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. His scholarly work lies at the intersection of comparative constitutional law, identity-based legal frameworks, and the challenges of pluralism in contemporary democracies.

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Francesco Biagi

Francesco Biagi is Associate Professor of Comparative Public Law at the University of Bologna Department of Legal Studies, Deputy Secretary General of the International Association of Constitutional Law (IACL-AIDC), and Research Fellow at the Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development (a partnership between the Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe and the University of Bologna). He was Senior Research Fellow at the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law (Heidelberg) (2015-2017), where he now serves as legal consultant. Biagi has been Visiting Professor at the University of Illinois College of Law (regularly since 2015) and at the Tel Aviv University Faculty of Law (2022). He has provided training and consultancy to governmental and judicial institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North Africa, and Latin America (since 2013). He provided assistance during the 2022 and 2023 constitution-drafting processes in Chile. Biagi is the author of *Constitution-building after the Arab Spring. A Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge University Press 2025) and *European Constitutional Courts and Transitions to Democracy* (Cambridge University Press 2020).

Sabrina Cavatorto

Sabrina Cavatorto is an Assistant Professor in Political Science at the University of Siena, Department of Social, Political, and Cognitive Sciences. She was actively involved in the research activities and graduate school of CIRCaP (now “*Interuniversity Centre for Research on Political Change*”, jointly established by the Universities of Siena, Florence, and Pisa), where she has been serving as Director since 2023. She has over a decade of teaching experience in EU Politics and Public Policy Analysis and Evaluation across various academic programs and institutions. Her research focuses on the Europeanization of public policies, multilevel governance, better regulation and impact analysis, administrative reforms in Italy. She has participated in numerous EU-funded and national research projects on democratic governance and multilevel policymaking. From 2015 to 2018, she coordinated the Jean Monnet Module EUReACT (*REpresentation in the EU: ACTing Multilevel Democracy*). More recently, her work has been studying the implementation of National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs). Among publications, *The Politics of Public Administration Reform in Italy* (Palgrave, 2020, with A. La Spina), as well as articles on crisis management and politicization in the EU, with contributions in Routledge (2020, with M. Cotta and F. Russo) and *Rivista Italiana di Politiche Pubbliche* (2017).

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Cristiana Cianitto

Cristiana Cianitto is a lecturer in Canon Law at the University of Milan, Department “Cesare Beccaria”, holding a PhD in Philosophy of Law, Curriculum in Ecclesiastical and Canon Law (University of Milan); founding member of ICLARS (International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies) and general coordinator of the ICLARS secretariat. She also teaches comparative law of religions in the University of Milan, in the Faculty of Theology in Lugano (CH) and in the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome. She is principal investigator in the *ATLAS Project – Atlas of Religious or Belief Minority Rights* and directs the *Research Center on Religious and Belief Minorities in Contemporary Legal Systems* in the University of Milan. She is a member of the editorial committee of the journal “*Quaderni di diritto e politica ecclesiastica*”. Her main fields of investigation are law and religion in the UK; Anglican canon law; hate crimes, hate speech, freedom of religion and freedom of expression in the UK, USA, India, Italy; comparative law of religions; Sikh studies; religious minority rights. She published extensively in her fields of research; her main books are *Quando la parola ferisce. Blasfemia e incitamento all'odio religioso nella società contemporanea*, Torino, Giappichelli, 2016 and *Minoranze e Simboli Religiosi. I sikh tra Identità e cittadinanza*, Torino, Giappichelli, 2024.

Matteo Corsalini

Matteo Corsalini is a postdoctoral researcher at University of Siena, Department of Social, Political and Cognitive Sciences. His research areas include freedom of religion or belief, international human rights law, corporate law and corporate governance. Corsalini is the author of several publications in the field of law and religion, including the book *Business, Religion and the Law. Church and Business Autonomy in the Secular Economy* (2023 Routledge). Prior to his appointment in Siena, he was a postdoc researcher and adjunct professor at the University of Padua School of Law from 2022 to 2023. In 2021 he earned a PhD in law and religion from the University of Siena, Department of Law, under the supervision of Professor Marco Ventura. Corsalini currently serves as an adjunct secretary of the European Consortium for Church and State Research and as a book review editor for *Religion & Human Rights* (Brill). From 2022 to 2024 he collaborated with the University of Warsaw, Faculty of Law and Administration, providing doctoral training to PhD students in law and religion as part of an international co-supervision project funded by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange. In 2025, Corsalini was awarded the National Scientific Qualification for appointment as an Associate Professor in Law and Religion.

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Joseph David

Joseph E. David is a Full Professor of Law at Sapir Academic College in Israel. His research spans legal theory, law and religion, legal history, human rights, and law and technology. He is the author of *The State Rabbinate: Election, Separation and Freedom of Expression* (2000), *The Family and the Political: On Belonging and Responsibility in a Liberal Society* (2012), *Toleration within Judaism* (2013), *Jurisprudence and Theology in Late Ancient and Medieval Jewish Thought* (2014) and *Kinship, Law and Politics- An Anatomy of Belonging* (2019). He edited *The State of Israel: Between Judaism and Democracy* (2000), *Questioning Dignity: Human Dignity as Supreme Modern Value* (2006), *Nomos and Narrative for the Hebrew Reader* (2012), *The Gift of the Land and the Fate of the Canaanites in Jewish Thought* (2014), and *Strengthening Human Rights Protections in Geneva, Israel, the West Bank and Beyond* (2021). Joseph is a co-editor of the *Journal of Law and Religion* (Cambridge). Joseph has held academic positions at the University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers University, New York University, University of Oxford, Yale University, Emory University, Hebrew University, Reichman University, and The Max Planck Society.

Giacomo Delledonne

Giacomo Delledonne is currently Associate Professor of Constitutional and Public Law at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa, where he also served as Assistant Professor of Constitutional Law and conducted postdoctoral research. In 2020, he got the National Scientific Qualification for the role of Full Professor of Comparative Law. From 2015 to 2016, he conducted postdoctoral research at the Institute for European Studies of Université Saint-Louis in Brussels. In March 2014, he got a Ph.D. in Constitutional Law from the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna. Since 2014 he has been one of the convenors of a research group of the International Association of Constitutional Law. He worked as trainee clerk at the Italian Constitutional Court under Justice Sabino Cassese (2010-2011). Since 2022, he has collaborated with the Research Department of the Constitutional Court. He has written extensively in five languages (Italian, English, French, Spanish, and German). His first monograph on *L'omogeneità costituzionale degli ordinamenti composti* (2017) was awarded the Opera Prima – Sergio P. Panunzio Prize, organised by the Italian Association of Constitutional Law Scholars. He coordinates the Jean Monnet Module ENACTING – *European Values in Context: Challenges and Comparative Insights* and serves as principal investigator of the PRIN project *Identitarian Public Law*.

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Cyril Hovorun

Archimandrite Cyril Hovorun is a professor of ecclesiology, international relations and ecumenism at Sankt Ignatios College, University College Stockholm, and a director of the Huffington Ecumenical Institute at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. A graduate of the Theological Academy in Kyiv and National University in Athens, he earned his PhD at Durham University under the supervision of Fr Andrew Louth. He has held key positions in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Russian Orthodox Church, and was a research fellow at Yale and Columbia, a visiting professor at the University of Münster, and an international fellow at the University of Alberta. He also teaches at the Pontifical Gregorian University and the Institute of Sino-Christian Studies. Hovorun has published over 500 works in 30 languages. His most recent books are *Eastern Christianity in Its Texts* (London: T&T Clark, 2022; Italian translation published in 2025) and *La riconciliazione delle memorie: Ricordare le separazioni tra le Chiese e la ricerca dell'unità* (Roma: San Paolo, 2021, in co-authorship with Lothar Vogel and Stefano Cavallotto) Hovorun also was an invited editor of the issue on “*Putin and the New Russian Imperialism. An Approach from Communication and International Relations*” of the peer-reviewed journal *Tripodos*.

Massimo Faggioli

Dr. Massimo Faggioli is full professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University (Philadelphia). He is member of the steering committee for the project “*Vatican II: Event and Mandate*” for a 12-volume, intercontinental commentary of Vatican II. In 2023 he has been elected to the board of editors of the journal of theology *Concilium*. He was founding co-chair of the unit “*Vatican II Studies*” for the American Academy of Religion between 2012 and 2017. He has a column in *La Croix International*, is contributing writer for *Commonweal* magazine and for the Italian magazine *Il Regno*. Among his recent publications: *The Liminal Papacy of Pope Francis. Moving Toward Global Catholicity* (2020); *Joe Biden and Catholicism in the United States* (Bayard 2021); *The Oxford Handbook of Vatican II*, co-edited with Catherine Clifford (2023); *Da Dio a Trump. Crisi Cattolica e Politica Americana* (2025). He is co-author of *Global Catholicism: Between Disruption and Encounter* (2024) with Bryan Froehle, with whom he co-founded and co-edits the series “*Studies in Global Catholicism*” for Brill Publishers <https://brill.com/display/serial/SGC>. He is under contract with Oxford University Press for a book on the history of the Roman Curia.



Susanna Mancini

Susanna Mancini (Ph.D., European University Institute, 1995; JD, University of Bologna, 1991) is a full professor of Comparative Constitutional Law, and is a vice president of the International Association of Constitutional Law. She is interested in exploring how race and gender-related social and cultural constructs have shaped the balance of power and privilege in a liberal society, and in the role of the law in perpetuating and/or combating the marginalization of women and of racial, religious, linguistic and sexual minorities. Her work tackles issues of law and religion, reproductive rights, the partnership of feminism and multiculturalism, self-determination and secession.

Giuseppe Martinico

Giuseppe Martinico is a Full Professor of Comparative Public law at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies) Pisa. Before joining the Scuola Sant'Anna, he was García Pelayo Fellow at the Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales (CEPC), Madrid and Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence. In Pisa he also serves as Editor of the Sant'Anna Legal Studies journal. He was also an honorary professor at the Centre of European Law of the University of Henan, Kaifeng and a visiting professor at the Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona.

Lina Papadopoulos

Triantafyllia Lina Papadopoulos is a Professor of Constitutional Law at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Greece, holder of a Jean Monnet Chair for “*European Constitutional Law and Culture*”, and previously Academic Co-ordinator of the AUTH Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on “*European Constitutionalism and Religion(s)*” (2018-22). Lina studied Law at AUTH (Bachelor 1993), Trier (LLM 1994) and Hannover (PhD 1998) as well as Political Theory at the London School of Economics (LSE, MSc 1999). She was a Post-doc ‘*Marie Curie*’ Fellow in the field of European Constitutional Law at the LSE (2000 and 2001) and AUTH (2001/02) and co-ordinator in multiple projects of funded research at AUTH. Her teaching at the Law School includes Greek and European Constitutional Law, as well as Greek and European Human Rights Law. She also teaches at the Master programmes “*Bioethics and Medical Law*”, “*European Union Studies*” and “*Religion, Geopolitics and International Security*”. Her research interests include national, comparative and European constitutional issues and human rights, focusing on democracy and political parties, freedom of expression, economy and the constitution, equality and non-discrimination, religion and the state, and bioethical issues. Her publications include monographs, handbooks as well as approx. 100 article in Greek, English and German.

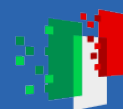
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Donizete Rodrigues

Donizete Rodrigues (born in 1959) holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from Coimbra University, after earning degrees from the University of São Paulo, where he was an assistant professor (1986–1992). He is currently an Associate Professor (with Habilitation) in Sociology at the University of Beira Interior (Portugal), where he served as Dean of the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences (1997–2000). He collaborates with Columbia University's Seminars on *Brazil* and *Studies in Religion* and has been a visiting professor at the State University of Pará (Brazil) since 2017. Previously, he was a senior researcher at the Centre for Research in Anthropology/NOVA University of Lisbon (2007–2023) and Vice-President of the Lusophone Studies Association (Canada, 2019–2022). He has also taught or conducted research at institutions in Spain, the UK, the USA, and beyond. Rodrigues has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Brazil, the USA, Europe, Japan, and Cambodia, focusing on religion, immigration, and identity. He has published extensively in multiple languages, including 20 articles in first-class journals, 16 books and 45 book chapters. His English books include *The Religious Phenomenon: An Inter-Disciplinary Approach* (2000), *The God of the New Millennium: An Introduction to the Sociology of Religion* – preface by Bryan Wilson (2002); and *Jesus in Sacred Gotham: Brazilian Immigrants and Pentecostalism in New York City* (2014).

Balázs Schanda

Balázs Schanda is a Professor of constitutional law and ecclesiastical at Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Budapest, Hungary. He studied law at ELTE University, Budapest (1987–1993) and canon law at Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Budapest (1995–1999). In 2003, ELTE University granted him a doctoral decree for a thesis on the institutional aspects of religious freedom. In 2004, he was appointed associate professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at Pázmány Péter Catholic University; in 2012, he became a full professor; in 2006, he became the head of the Department of Constitutional Law. From 2007 to 2013, he served as the Dean of the Faculty. Prof. Schanda is a member of the European Consortium for Church-State Research, the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies, the Advisory Board of the Association of Hungarian Constitutional Lawyers, the Saint Steven Academy of Science and the Committee of Law and Political Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In 2016, he was elected to the Hungarian Constitutional Court for a judicial term of twelve years. He is author of over three hundred articles in journals and books on religious freedom issues as well as on constitutional law.

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Pamela Slotte Russo

Pamela Slotte Russo is Professor of Religion and Law at Åbo Akademi University, Vice-director of the Center of Excellence in Law, Identity and the European Narratives at University of Helsinki, Finland, and McDonald Distinguished Senior Fellow of Law and Religion at Emory Law School, Atlanta, USA. Her scholarship has explored the intersectional relationships between law, ethics, and religion utilizing modalities adopted from critical legal studies, political theology, intellectual history, and postcolonial studies. Her work in the area of law and religion has examined e.g. how differing ideas about religious and non-religious life-ways structure national and international legal reasoning as well as human rights discourse. Recent publications include the co-edited volumes *Christianity and International Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2021) and *Internationalization and Re-Confessionalization: Law and Religion in the Nordic Realm 1945-2017* (University Press of Southern Denmark, 2022). For more information about research output, see the personal university homepage: < <https://research.abo.fi/en/persons/pamela-slotte-russo> >.

Marco Ventura

PhD at the University of Strasbourg in 1992, since 2001 Marco Ventura is a professor with tenure in law and religion at the University of Siena, Italy. A professor at the Law School, he is a member of the Department of Social, political and cognitive sciences, and a scientific advisor of the European Union funded Jean Monnet Centre of excellence in cultural relations and diplomacy (CREDO), also at the University of Siena. An associate researcher at the Center *Droit, Religion, Entreprise et Société* of the University of Strasbourg and the French National Research Council, from 2016 to 2022 he has been a member of the panel of experts on freedom of religion or belief of OSCE / ODIHR. He has published extensively on ‘freedom of religion or belief’, ‘law, society and religion’, ‘comparative religious laws’, ‘politics of religion’. His latest work is the translation in Italian of Harold Berman’s *The Interaction of Law and Religion* (original 1974, Leo S. Olschki 2024). His latest journal articles are: B. R. Taylorian and M. Ventura (2023) ‘Registration, recognition, and freedom of religion or belief’, in *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*; M. Ventura (2022) ‘Comprehensive Security and the Environment: The Challenge for Religions’, in *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*, and M. Ventura (2020), ‘The Formula ‘Freedom of Religion or Belief’ in the Laboratory of the European Union’ in *Studia & Prava Wyznaniowego* (2020).

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Patrizia Vigni

Patrizia Vigni is an associate professor of International Law at the Department of Business and Law of the University of Siena (Italy). She achieved a degree in Law at the University of Siena in 1992, the Magister Juris at the University of Oxford (UK) in 1996 and a Ph.D. in International Law at the University of Siena in 1998. Her main research fields are the Antarctic Treaty System, the interaction between treaty regimes, international dispute settlement, the law of the sea, diplomatic and consular protection, EU citizenship, the protection of cultural heritage.

She was the legal advisor to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs with regard to the negotiations concerning the Antarctic Treaty from 1998 to 2014.

Anne-Laure Zwilling

Anne-Laure Zwilling is established researcher and co-director of the research team Religions and pluralism in the research centre *DRES-Droit, Religion, Entreprise, Société* (UMR 7354, joint unit of the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* [CNRS] and the University of Strasbourg). She is the director of the international research network and information project *Eurel* - legal and sociological information concerning religion in Europe and beyond, comprising 42 correspondents from 32 European countries and Canada. Convenor of several research projects, she has set up and manages the *Sociorel* blog of information on sociology of religion.

Her research interests are religions in their contemporary diversity. Anne-Laure Zwilling's work focuses on religious developments in present-day Europe, especially regarding the ways in which religious plurality is considered in society.

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