



Going political: pro-life agenda and family values in discourse of Belarusian churches

Series “Colloquia on Postsecular Conflicts”

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Speaker:



Natallia Vasilevich is a theologian, political scientist and lawyer from Minsk, Belarus. She received her master degrees in political science from Belarusian State University and in ecumenical studies from the University of Bonn, Germany, where she currently works on her doctoral dissertation on the social doctrine of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church. She holds a scholarship of the Protestant Church of Germany (EKD). She is director of the Minsk based Centre Ecumena, a cultural and educational establishment dealing with social ethics, ecumenical cooperation and theological research.

In many post-Soviet societies, the topic of abortion has become a central issue for public debates with involvement of churches and church-related organisations since the end of the 2000-s. The paper will focus on Belarus as an illustrative example for the development of the pro-life discourse and movement. A global pro-life discourse and transnational organisations have influenced Belarusian debates. This influence stems, on the one hand, from Poland, to which the Roman Catholic Church in Belarus is institutionally and historically closely connected, and, on the other hand, from Russia, from where Orthodox Christians in Belarus import discourses and models of the pro-life movement present in Russia.