

Public panel discussion “European Culture Wars?”

Austrian Academy of Science, ÖAW, Doktor-Ignaz-Seipel-Platz 2, 1010 Wien

Thursday, 7 February 2019, 18:00-20:00 (reception starts at 17:00)

The “*culture wars*” were for a long time associated with struggles between social progressives and social conservatives in the United States, where they crystallized around issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage. During the last decade, the culture wars appear to have also taken root in Europe, with Russia having become a main champion of traditional values over and against liberal democracy and human rights and with populist right parties like Italy’s *Lega* or Austrian’s *FPÖ* discovering themselves as champions of the traditional family. The public panel discussion in the framework of the conference invites four renowned authors and experts to debate their visions of what is happening in Europe today.

Panelists:

- James Davison Hunter (University of Virginia), author of “*Culture Wars. The Struggle to Define America*”
- Olivier Roy (European University Institute Florence), author of “*Holy Ignorance. When Religion and Culture Part Ways*”
- Susanna Mancini (University of Bologna & John Hopkins University), law-professor and co-editor of “*The Conscience Wars*”
- Ivan Vejvoda (IWM, Institut für die Wissenschaft vom Menschen, Vienna), head of the „Europe’s Futures“-Program

The public panel discussion is organized in cooperation with:



Postsecular Conflicts Project (2016-2021)

Mid-Term Conference

6-8 February 2019

Organizer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kristina Stoeckl (University of Innsbruck)

Program

Place: Hotel Strudlhof, Pasteurgasse 1, 1090 Wien

Wednesday February 6, 2019

Arrival of participants

20:00 Dinner at Hotel Strudlhof, Pasteurgasse 1, 1090 Wien

Thursday Februar 7, 2019

09:00-10:30 *Session 1 Secularization and Postsecular Society*

Presenters: Kristina Stoeckl & Dmitry Uzlaner

Discussants: Julia Mourão Permoser, José Casanova

In this session we introduce the central theoretical question of the Postsecular Conflicts research project, namely what characterizes conflicts over values in our present day societies and how are these conflicts best interpreted. Should we look at value conflicts from a secularization-theory perspective, as conflicts between religious sensibilities and secular worldviews? Or should we look at them from a postsecular perspective, as conflicts that cut across the religious-secular spectrum? What is so "new" about these conflicts to warrant a new term – postsecular conflicts – rather than using the established sociological terminology? What are the features of postsecular conflicts as they emerge from the research we have done in the past two and a half years?

10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00-12:30 *Session 2 The Culture Wars Today*

Presenter: James D. Hunter

Discussants: Kapyia John Kaoma TBC, Olivier Roy, Elena Namli

In this session, James Davidson Hunter, author of *Culture Wars. The Struggle to define America*, revisits his concept in the light of the increasingly globalized dimension of value-conflicts and -politics today.

12:30-14:00 *Lunch & Coffee*

14:00-16:00 *Session 3 Transnational norm mobilization: UN, Council of Europe, World Congress of Families*

Presenters: Kristina Stoeckl & Caroline Hill

Discussants: Phillip Ayoub, Clifford Bob

What is the role of Russia and of Russian Orthodox actors in transnational norm mobilization? This session discusses Russia's traditional values agenda at the United Nations (Stoeckl/Medvedeva *Double bind at the UN: Russia, traditional values and Western democratic states*) and the transnational networks of Russian Orthodox pro-family activists (Stoeckl *The rise of the Russian Christian Right: the case of the World Congress of Families*). We also present work in progress on debates over rights and resolutions between Russia-led conservative coalitions and liberals in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

16:00-18:00 *Transfer to the Austrian Academy of Science, ÖAW, Doktor-Ignaz-Seipel-Platz 2, 1010 Wien*

Refreshments

18:00-20:00 *Session 4 Public panel discussion "European Culture Wars?"* (see separate program)

With James Davison Hunter, Olivier Roy, Susanna Mancini, Ivan Vejvoda

Moderator: Kristina Stoeckl

20:00 *Dinner: Oswald & Kalb, Bäckerstraße 14*

Friday Februar 8, 2019

09:00-10:30 *Session 5 Orthodox Political Theologies and "Conservative Ecumenism"*

Presenters: Andrey Shishkov, Kristina Stoeckl, Aristotle Papanikolaou

Discussants: Ingeborg Gabriel, Thomas Bremer, Elena Namli

What are the theological and political parameters for religious activism in the public sphere? In this session, we present the results of the workshop on the concept of "conservative ecumenism". We discuss the place of Orthodox theology in postsecular conflicts – in Russia and beyond – and the developments in Orthodox theological debates on new issues, such as same-sex marriage.

10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00-12:30 *Session 6 Pro-life in Russia: abortion and assisted procreation*

Presenters: Sonja Luehrmann, Caroline Hill

Discussants: Susanna Mancini, Chris Stroop, Phillip Ayoub

In the past 30 years, Russia has moved from being a country with no pro-life/pro-choice controversies to a situation where the state, religious organizations and civil society are deeply troubled by public controversy over abortion. How can we explain this change? Caroline Hill (associated PhD at the University of Uppsala) presents her dissertation project on the Russian Orthodox debates on abortion and assisted procreation. Sonja Luehrmann, who is currently working on a monograph on the Russian pro-life, will talk about her research and offer comments.

12:30-14:00 *Lunch (on site)*

14:00-16:00 *Session 7 Russian Conservatism and (the End of) the Pro-Orthodox Consensus in Russia*

Presenters: Dmitry Uzlaner & Mikhail Suslov

Discussants: Alexander Agadjanian, Sergey Horujy, Sergey Chapnin

What is the role of the Russian Orthodox Church in present-day Russian society and is the "pro-Orthodox consensus" slowly coming to an end (Uzlaner *The end of the pro-orthodox consensus: religion as a new cleavage in Russian society*)? What are sources of Russia's conservative turn? In this session, Dmitry Uzlaner and Mikhail Suslov present the forthcoming edited volume *Contemporary Russian Conservatism: Problems, Paradoxes and Dangers* (Brill).

16:00-16:30 *Coffee Break*

16:30-17:30 *Session 7 Round-up session Where to go from here?*

Moderator: Julia Mourão Permoser

The aim of the last session is to reflect on the stock-taking of the last 2 days and discuss where to go from here. What should be the main aims of the last two years in the project? Do we have blind-spots that need to be brought out into the open, what is still missing? Also dissemination and publication strategies could be discussed in this last session, as well as the public relevance of the findings. Members of the advisory board are invited to present their advice and comments for the improvement of the project.

Followed by refreshments/aperitivo

(optional, please sign up) *Dinner at Hotel Strudlhof, Pasteurgasse 1, 1090 Wien*

Saturday February 9, 2019

Departure of participants