



Baldy Center Conference

**Re-Describing the Sacred/Secular Divide:  
The Legal Story II**

Friday - Sunday, May 1 - 3, 2009

**PROGRAM**

Papers will not be formally presented but rather respondents will introduce papers, followed by responses from paper authors. Participants will be expected to have read all the papers, with special care given to those of their fellow panelists.

**Friday, May 1, 2009**

509 O'Brian Hall, University at Buffalo Law School

9:00 - 9:30 am            Registration, coffee and pastries

9:30 am            Welcome by **Rebecca French**, Director, Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy

Introduction by **Winnifred Sullivan**, University at Buffalo Law School  
"Re-Describing the Sacred/Secular Divide: The Legal Story"

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

**Panel I: Genealogy of the Legal Secular**

**Chair: Mateo Taussig-Rubbo**, University at Buffalo Law School

**Rachel Weil**, History, Cornell University

"Allegiance, Religion and Secularization in the English Revolution of 1688"

**Tomoko Masuzawa**, History, Comparative Literature, University of Michigan

"Instituting the Academic Secular: the Heresy Trial of W. Robertson Smith  
(1876-1881) and the Advent of Biblical Studies"

**Jakob de Roover**, Comparative Sciences of Culture, University of Ghent; visiting at  
Comparative Literature, University at Buffalo

"Secular Law and the Realm of Idolatry"

**Respondent: Antoni Abad i Ninet**, Legal Theory, Filosofia Teorètica i Pràctica,  
Universitat de Barcelona; visiting at University at Buffalo Law School

12:00 – 1:00 pm            Lunch

## **Friday, May 1, 2009** (continued)

1:00 – 3:00 pm

### **Panel II: Law and Political Theology**

**Chair: Winnifred Sullivan**, University at Buffalo Law School

**Paul Kahn**, Yale Law School

"Why Political Theology Again"

**Robert Yelle**, History, University of Memphis

"Moses' Veil: Secularization as Christian Myth"

**Leonard Kaplan**, Law, University of Wisconsin

"The Political as Prior: Arendt, Schmitt and Strauss"

**Bruce Rosenstock**, Religious Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana

"Sovereign Impunity: The Theologico-Political Horizon of the International Criminal Court"

**Respondent: Frederick Rosén**, Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University

3:00 – 3:30 pm          Break

3:30 - 5:00 pm

### **Panel III: Secular Law and Religion: Encounters**

**Chair: Robert Yelle**, History, University of Memphis

**Rebecca French**, University at Buffalo Law School

"With God in My Briefcase"

**Tim Jensen**, Institute of Philosophy, Education, and the Study of Religions, University of Southern Denmark

"When is a Knife a Knife, and Religion Religion, - and Who Decides?"

**Stephanie Philips**, University at Buffalo Law School

"Liberal Protestant Theology as "Secular" Legal Principle: Intolerance of Intolerance in the Unitarian Controversy and Contemporary Politics"

**Respondent: Kenneth Ehrenberg**, Philosophy, University at Buffalo

## **Saturday, May 2, 2009**

Saturn Club, 977 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo

9:30 – 10:00 am          Coffee

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

### **Panel IV: Formations of the Secular 1**

**Chair: Mateo Taussig-Rubbo**, University at Buffalo Law School

**Hussein Agrama**, Anthropology, University of Chicago

"Secularism, Sovereignty, Indeterminacy: Is Egypt a Secular or a Religious State?"

**Mary Anne Case**, Law, University of Chicago

"Why Evangelical Protestants are Right When They Say that State Recognition of Same-Sex Marriages Threatens Their Marriages and What the Law Should Do About It"

**David Engel**, University at Buffalo Law School

"Thai Customary Law of Injuries and the Sacred-Secular Divide"

**Respondent: Noah Salomon**, University of Chicago Divinity School

**Saturday, May 2, 2009** (continued)

12:00 – 1:00 pm      Lunch

1:00 – 2:30 pm

**Panel V: Formations of the Secular 2**

**Chair: Winnifred Sullivan**, University at Buffalo Law School

**Greg Johnson**, Religious Studies, University of Colorado

“Courting Culture: Unexpected Relationships between Religion and Law in Contemporary Hawai‘i”

**John Henry Schlegel**, University at Buffalo Law School

“An Oblique Perspective, Perhaps”

**Markus Dressler**, Sociology, Istanbul Technical University

“Secular Law, Laicism and the Issue of Religious Difference in Turkey”

**Respondent: Frank Reynolds**, History of Religions and Buddhist Studies,  
University of Chicago Divinity School

2:30 – 3:00 pm      Break

3:00 – 5:00 pm

**Panel VI: Sacrifice**

**Chair: Robert Yelle**, History, University of Memphis

**Mateo Taussig-Rubbo**, University at Buffalo Law School

“Sacrifice Beyond Law and Ritual”

**Banu Bargu**, Politics, New School for Social Research

“Stasiology: Political Theology and the Figure of the Sacrificial Enemy”

**Thomas Blom Hansen**, Sociology & Anthropology, University of Amsterdam

“Cool Passion: The Political Theology of Modern Convictions”

**Jonathan Sheehan**, History, University of California, Berkeley

“Assenting to the Law: Sacrifice and Punishment at the Dawn of  
Secularism”

**Respondent: Ramya Sreenivasan**, History, University at Buffalo

**Sunday, May 3, 2009**

Sunday morning wrap up session for participants only to discuss publication.

**<http://law.buffalo.edu/baldycenter/sacredSecularDivide09.html>**

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