

# Sacred Places and Cultural Heritage



**Jerusalem 15 - 17 March 2016**

The event is co-organized and co-sponsored by the following organisations:



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Brunel Law and Religion Research Group



**INTERNATIONAL  
Jerusalem Global Gateway**

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## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

### **Sacred Places and Heritage Protection from the Perspectives of International, Constitutional, Religious Law and Foreign Policy**

15 - 17 March 2016

**Van Leer Jerusalem Institute  
Peres Academic Center  
Tantour Ecumenical Institute**

Organised by

International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies  
Jerusalem Global Gateway, Notre Dame  
Peres Academic Center  
University of Arizona  
Regent's Park College Oxford  
Oxford Journal of Law and Religion  
Brunel Law and Religion Research Group  
Fondazione Bruno Kessler – Centre for Religious Studies  
International Center for Law and Religion Studies,  
Brigham Young University

This is a high impact international conference of experts working broadly in the field of legal protection of sacred places and cultural heritage and is aimed at exploring emerging systemic problems on the ground, innovative approaches and agendas for change in terms of substantive law at the international as well as domestic level, as well as considerations for foreign policy.

With the growing concern about cultural heritage protection during armed conflict, the importance of more robust and sophisticated legal approaches to cultural heritage in general and sacred places in particular has become increasingly urgent in recent years. Scholars and practitioners will explore existing legal frameworks, their shortcomings and innovative approaches such as development of soft law, the use of transitional justice techniques as well as a more sophisticated ways of reading the overlap between civil and religious laws in negotiations regarding the protection of sacred places. In particular the experts will attempt to analyze sacred places as particular phenomena which are more complex and deserve more sensitive treatment than is currently being provided by existing cultural heritage protection legal regimes. The conference will provide a neutral forum for discussion of the ways in which protection of sacred places is approached and could be strengthened. Among other possibilities, this includes ideas such as linking their protection (as well as cultural heritage protection in general) with more robust international legal commitments (such as those provided by international human rights law, minority rights protection, and humanitarian law).

In addition, the experts will reflect on the possibility of developing guidelines and toolkits (similar to the ones developed by the Council of Europe, EU and the

OSCE) for religious leaders, policy makers and desk officers at foreign ministries and international organisations.

It is envisaged that the conference will be designed to facilitate expert interaction in a context that will allow fruitful identification of issues while guarding against polarization and grandstanding of particular agendas. Every effort is being made to assure balanced participation by stakeholders from various religious traditions. We expect that we will succeed in gathering a very high level group of religious leaders, academics, lawyers and policy makers from many ethnic and religious backgrounds. We anticipate that the experts' perspectives will benefit a broad range of key stakeholders in Israel, and that it will also bring together experts addressing similar issues in a number of other cultural contexts. This will help broaden the discussions beyond the sensitive issues in the context of Israel, and will help raise discussion and possible solutions to a higher level.

While the conference will touch on specific case studies, the main focus will be to identify overarching themes and approaches on the basis of existing knowledge of challenges and tensions in connection with the use of sacred spaces. Sessions will be structured and the list of participants finalized to help assure that the conference will not be used to further any particular agendas. Instead the event will help take the debate to the next level – exploring how awareness of existing problems and varied legal, theological and historical knowledge and expertise can help to design robust and novel approaches and broaden the perspectives of lawyers, religious leaders and policy makers on what are admittedly highly sensitive issues.

**PROGRAMME**  
**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Sacred Places and Heritage Protection from the Perspectives of  
International, Constitutional, Religious Law and Foreign Policy**

**15-17 March 2016**

**Van Leer Jerusalem Institute  
Peres Academic Center  
Tantour Ecumenical Institute**

**Tuesday, 15 March 2016**

**17:30 – 19:00**      **Opening Session – Sacred Places and Heritage Protection:  
Emerging Perspectives**

Peres Academic Center  
10 Shimon Peres St.  
Rehovot

Moderator:

**Asher Maoz**, Dean, Peres Academic Center Law School

Welcome:

**Ron Shapira**, President, Peres Academic Center

**Peter Petkoff**, Director, Religion, Law and International Relations  
Programme, Regents Park College, Oxford and Brunel University

Speakers:

**W. Cole Durham**, President, International Consortium for Law and  
Religion Studies; Director, International Center for Law and  
Religion

Studies, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University

**Alex Gryzbowski**, Conflict Resolution and Prevention Specialist,  
Columbia University Institute for Conflict Resolution

**19:00**                      **Opening Reception and Dinner**

**Wednesday, 16 March 2016**

**9:00 – 9:30**              **Arrival and Registration –**  
Van Leer Jerusalem Institute  
43 Jabotinsky Street  
Jerusalem 9214116  
Israel

**9:30 – 11:15**

Welcome:

**Gabriel Motzkin**, Director, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

**Session I: Shaping Sacred Places through Law, Policy and Religion: Institutional Engagement**

Moderator:

**Robert Smith**, Academic Director, Notre Dame Global Gateway, Tantur Ecumenical Institute, University of Notre Dame

Speakers:

**Peter Petkoff**, Director, Religion, Law and International Relations Programme, Regents Park College, Oxford and Brunel University

**Leonard Hammer**, Adjunct Professor of Law, Rothberg International School, Hebrew University; Andrea and David Stein Visiting Chair in Modern Israel Studies, University of Arizona

**Sotiris Roussos**, Associate Professor, Centre for Religious Pluralism in the Middle East

**11:15 – 11:30**

**Break**

**11:30 – 13:00**

**Session II**

**A. Sacred Places and Constitutional Law**

Moderator:

**Basha'er Fahoum Jayoussi**, Attorney and Board Co-chair, The Abraham Fund Initiatives; Chair of the Control Committee, University of Haifa

**Asher Maoz**, Dean, Peres Academic Center Law School

**Aviad Hacoheh**, Senior Lecturer in Constitutional Law and Jewish Law, Sha'arei Mishpat Academic College; Faculty of Law, Hebrew University

**Silvio Ferrari**, Professor of Canon Law, University of Milan

**B. Sacred Places and the Politics of Cultural Heritage Protection**

Moderator:

**Peter Petkoff**, Director, Religion, Law and International Relations Programme, Regents Park College, Oxford and Brunel University

Speakers:

**Tugba Tanyeri Erdemir**, Deputy Director, Center for Science and Society, Middle East Technological University

**Yuri Stoyanov**, Department of the Near and Middle East, Faculty of Languages and Cultures, School of Oriental and African Studies,

University of London  
**Emre Öktem**, Associate Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law, Galatasaray University

**13:00 – 14:00**

**Lunch**

**14:00 – 15:30**  
**Sacred Places**

**Session III: Civilian and Common Law Approaches to**

Senior

Moderator:  
**Talia Einhorn**, Professor of Law (Ordinaria), Ariel University, Department of Economics and Business Management; Visiting

Research Fellow, Tel Aviv University Faculty of Management

Speakers:  
**Mark Hill QC**, Professor, Centre for Law and Religion, Cardiff University  
**James Hickling**, Barrister and Solicitor, Donovan and Company  
**Deborah Thebault**, Lecturer, University Paris 5

**15:30 – 17:30**

**Field Trip – Mount Zion and Armenian Quarter**

**17:30 – 18:30**

**Session IV: Religious Actors and Patterns of Negotiation of Legal Protection of Sacred Places (Roundtable)**

Moderator:  
**Aliza Lavie**, Head, Center for Media and Religion, Bar-Ilan University

Speakers:  
**Raymond Cohen**, Chaim Weizmann Professor of International Relations, Hebrew University  
**Sharon Rosen**, Co-Director, Search for Common Ground, Jerusalem Office  
**Eran Tzidkiyahu**, Search for Common Ground/End Violent Conflict  
**And Others**

**18.30**

**Reception and Dinner – Van Leer Jerusalem Institute**  
43 Jabotinsky Street  
Jerusalem 9214116  
Israel

**Thursday, 17 March 2016**

**9:00 – 10:30**

**Session V:**

**A. Shared and Contested Sacred Places – Emerging Challenges and Good Practices**

Moderator:

**Theodoros Giagou**, Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Speakers:

**Yannis Ktistakis**, Professor of Public International Law, Demokritus University of Thrace; Faculty of Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University

**Revd. Dobromir Dimitrov**, Assistant Professor of Canon Law, Department of Practical and Historical Theology, Faculty of Orthodox Theology, University of Veliko Tarnovo; Visiting Fellow, Regent's Park College, Oxford

**Abu Moussa Ramadan**, Law Faculty, University of Haifa

**B. Sacred Places in the Conversation between Civic and Religious Legal Cultures**

Moderator:

**Rabbi Naftali Rothenberg**, Senior Research Fellow, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

**Izhak Englard**, Former Justice, Supreme Court of Israel

**Marco Ventura**, Professor in Law and Religions, University of Siena; Director, Center for Religious Studies, Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento

**Nikos Maghioros**, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Theology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

**10:30 – 10:45**

**Break**

**10:45 – 12:15**

**Session VI: Religious Perspectives on the Legal Protection of Sacred Places**

Moderator:

**Joseph E. David**, Professor of Law, Sapir Academic College

Speakers:

**Qadi Iyad Zahalka**, Judge, Shari'a Court of Appeal; Lecturer, Hebrew University and University of Tel Aviv

**Mons. David Jaeger OFM**, Professor of Canon Law, Pontifical University Antonianum

**12:15 – 13:00**

**Concluding Remarks**

**13:00 – 19:00**

**Field Trip – Visit to Tantour Ecumenical Institute**



**19:00 – 21:00**

**Special Session, Tantour Ecumenical Institute  
Legal Protection of Sacred Places – Lessons from History**

Moderator:

**Ali Qleibo**, Director, Department of Fine Arts, Al-Quds University

Speakers:

**Anthony O'Mahony**, Reader in Theology and the History of Christianity; Director, Centre for Eastern Christianity, Heythrop College, University of London; Research Fellow, Blackfrairs, University of Oxford

**Merav Mack**, Research Fellow, The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, The Hebrew University



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