

URL: Understanding Religion and Law  
A GW4 Building Communities Initiator Project  
Workshop and Lecture:

Public Lecture:  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015  
5.30pm, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies,  
University of Exeter,

Professor Leon van den Broeke  
(Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Money, Mammon, and Ministry:  
State Financing of Religious  
Communities in Europe?

In this lecture Professor van den Broeke will examine how European states have used “church taxes” and similar instruments to fund religious groups, and how these groups have organized their finances internally, using these and other funds.

Leon van den Broeke is Assistant Professor Religion, Law, and Society, and Chair of the Centre for Religion and Law at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands. This Centre is a joint venture of the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Theology. His research interests include Law, Ecclesiology, Church Polity, Church History, and Practical Theology. He is currently writing a second doctoral dissertation, this time in legal studies, on funeral law from the perspective of freedom of religion. He is a Distinguished Academic Associate at the Centre for Law and Religion at Cardiff, Wales, and holder of the John Lewis Memorialship 2013, Cardiff.

This is the second lecture in the *URL: Understanding Religion and Law* project, funded under the GW4 Building Communities programme.

**URL: Understanding Religion and Law**  
**Second Workshop**  
**10<sup>th</sup> December 2015**  
**(1pm lunch; 2pm-5pm workshop)**  
**Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies,**  
**University of Exeter**

URL is a new project, aimed at bringing together researchers working on the relationship between religion and law. How does the law deal with religion? How has religion influenced the laws? Are the ethics and morals promoted by religions the inspiration for the law? How do religious traditions assess the law? Are religions in conflict with the law, or do they promote it? These, and many others, are the questions the URL project will address, through a series of four lectures and seminars in 2015 and 2016.

The project is open to researchers examining the interaction between religion and law in the past, back to the beginnings of religion – to the present, and the challenges of international law and religious diversity.

**Call for Participants**

Following our first workshop at the University of Bath on 10<sup>th</sup> November, the URL project is now inviting GW4-based scholars and others interested to participate in our second workshop to be held 10<sup>th</sup> December at the University of Exeter. We are particularly looking for presentations of two types:

- Papers (up to 20 minutes) presenting a piece of research touching on the relationship between religion and law
- Research Presentations outlining a project – such as a PhD topic, or an as yet unfinished piece of work (up to 10 minutes)

The aim is to share our research projects, test out new ideas for research, and to explore the possibilities of collaboration across the GW4 institutions. The workshop will, we hope, be informal and exploratory. Please note: the URL project has funds to fund all participants' travel, whether you make a presentation or come to comment on the research of others. After the workshop, Professor van den Broeke will give the second URL lecture/.

All are welcome to attend both the workshop and the lecture. You may, if you wish, contact your institutional URL researcher:

Bath: Dr Scott Thomas (S.M.Thomas@bath.ac.uk)

Bristol: Professor Julian Rivers (Julian.Rivers@bristol.ac.uk)

Cardiff: Professor Norman Doe (Doe@cardiff.ac.uk)

For further information, and if you would like to present a paper or research presentation, please contact Robert Gleave ([r.gleave@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:r.gleave@exeter.ac.uk)) before **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015**.