

**Fact Sheet:**

*Religion and the Exercise of Public Authority*

November 14-15, 2014

Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto

**Organized by:**

Benjamin Berger (Osgoode Hall Law School) and Richard Moon (University of Windsor).

**Participants:**

Amélie Barras (York University)

Benjamin Berger (Osgoode Hall Law School, York University)

Paul Bramadat (University of Victoria)

Faisal Bhabha (York University)

Pamela Klassen (University of Toronto)

Solange Lefebvre (Université de Montréal)

Jocelyn Maclure (Université Laval)

Richard Moon (University of Windsor)

Bruce Ryder (Osgoode Hall Law School, York University)

Jennifer Selby (Memorial University)

Shauna Van Praagh (McGill University)

Daniel Weinstock (McGill University)

**Student Participants:**

Samane Hemmat (Osgoode Hall Law School, York University)

**Event Description:**

The workshop was organized by Benjamin Berger and Richard Moon and supported by monies from the Religion and Diversity Project (MCRI –SSHRC), an SSHRC Insight Development Grant (held by Professor Berger), Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, and the Faculty of Law, University of Windsor. The contributors/presenters came from a variety of disciplines, including religious studies, political science, philosophy, sociology, and law. The papers addressed the general theme of religion and public authority. Law and religion scholarship has tended to focus on broad, structural questions such as the scope of religious freedom, the nature and limits of religious toleration and accommodation, and the demands and character of secularism. A finer-grained issue that has received less attention concerns the role of religion in the decisions, actions, and experiences of individuals who discharge public duties. How do the religious commitments of public actors affect the performance of their official functions? To what extent does religion figure in the way that public actors understand and negotiate their roles? What are the distinctive issues raised by the confluence of religion and public authority?

**Results Dissemination:**

*Religion and the Exercise of Public Authority*, B. L. Berger and R. Moon, eds. Hart Publishing, 2016.