Call for Papers for Theme Issue on Conversion, Proselytization, Secularization

Extended Deadline for Manuscripts: March 1st, 2021

The phenomena of moving from one religion to another, as well as leaving or joining any religion, raise interesting questions when considered in conjunction with basic democratic values, especially freedom of religion.

There are democratic states that have restrictions in this regard, like prohibiting promising money to entice potential converts, or restricting targeting minors to change their religious identity. In states where religious affiliation has legal consequences, the possibility of change might raise questions regarding the criteria in determining religious affiliation(s) of citizens. These are also internal questions in religious institutions and traditions, throughout the ages. Religions differ in their attitude towards mission/conversion, and the legitimate means – convincing, pressuring, forcing - to pursue it. They differ in their approach to member that leave them, before, during and after the act.

The Journal of Law, Religion and State (Brill, https://brill.com/view/journals/jlrs/jlrs-overview.xml) will publish a special issue on State, Law and Conversion, Proselytization and Secularization. We're interested in both the religious internal point of view and the church state interface.

We call for full papers (between 8,000-10,000 words) with a significant theoretical, historical or comparative contribution (preferably at least two of the three). We also invite short case studies (up to 4000 words) which should include a contextual or theoretical explanation, and some generalizable insight or comparative component, beyond the case presented.


For more information, please contact the deputy editor, Amos Israel, at aisrael@mail.sapir.ac.il.