



Australian
National
University

ANU Religion Conference 2023

Religion in Modern Education: Conflict, Policy, and Practice

13 – 15 April 2023

Australian National University

Canberra, ACT, Australia

Place: Research School of Social Science Building (# 146)

Sponsored by: ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences (CASS),
College of Asia and the Pacific (CAP),
College of Law,
Research School of Social Science,
School of Culture, History and Language,
School of History,
School of Archaeology,
Freilich Project for the Study of Bigotry,
ANU Harry Hartog Bookseller,
ANU Press.



PRESS



HARRY HARTOG
BOOKSELLER

ANU Religion Conference 2023

Thursday April 13, 2023

Place: Research School of Social Science Building (# 145), ANU

Registration	1:00 – 1:50 pm
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2:00 pm – 2: 15 pm / Opening Section (RSSS Auditorium: room 1.28)

Acknowledgement of Country

Welcome Greetings (Conference Committee)

Announcement: David W. Kim (ANU)

Key Address (1): 2: 15 – 3: 00 pm

Presider: Asso. Prof. Duncan Wright (ANU) (2: 15 – 2: 20 pm)

IT volunteer: Kaaren Sephton (ANU)

Key Speaker: (2: 20 – 3:00 pm)

Re-Establishing Religion in Modern Public Education:

Legal and Ethical Challenges

Prof. Candy Gunther Brown (Indiana University, USA)

3: 00 pm – 3: 30 pm / Coffee Break

Presentations

3: 30 pm – 5: 00 pm / RSSS Building

Parallel Session 1: Religious Policy in Education (I)

Chair: Lina Koleilat (Australian National University)

IT volunteer: Eko Sumando (ANU)

Room: Lectorial 1 (room 1.21)

Paper 1: Market-oriented Schooling and Religious Affiliation: *Teacher Perspectives*

Meghan Stacey (University of New South Wales)

Sara Mashayekh (University of New South Wales)

Paper 2: The Myth of Neutrality in “Free and Secular” Australian Education

Naomi Barnes (Queensland University of Technology)

Elizabeth Knight (Victoria University, Melbourne)

Melanie Myers (University of Queensland)

Paper 3: Muting the Religious Voice in English Religious Education

Paul Smalley (Edge Hill University, UK)

Parallel Session 2: Colonial Education and Religion

Chair: Yun Zhou (Australian National University)

IT volunteer: Tita Tabije (ANU)

Room: Lectorial 2 (room 1.23)

Paper 1: Contemplations on the Self and Religious Education in the Philippines

Bonita Cabiles (University of Melbourne)

Paper 2: *Australian Refugee and Migrant Young Non-Christian Students:*

Their Search for Better Education, Identity, Meaning and Spirituality

Brikha H. S. Nasoraia (The University of Sydney)

Paper 3: *(Re)Imagining Education in Australia: Insights from Aboriginal
relationality and Islam*

Debbie Bargallie (Griffith University)

Troy Meston (Griffith University)

Halim Rane (Griffith University)

**Parallel Session 3: ‘Anti-Cult’ Education and State Limitations of
Freedom of Religion**

Chair: Rosita Šorytė (European Federation for Freedom of Belief)

IT volunteer: Joshua Willsher (ANU)

Room: RSSS Auditorium (room 1.28)

Paper 1: Educating Russians Against Ukrainian “Satanists”: *Russian Anti-Cult
Propaganda and the War in Ukraine*

Rosita Šorytė (European Federation for Freedom of Belief)

Paper 2: *MISA and Related Controversies: Educating To, and Against, Sacred
Eroticism*

Massimo Introvigne (Centre for Studies on New Religions, Italy)

Paper 3: Limiting Religious Freedom by Limiting the Confessional Privilege:
Australia and Elsewhere

Keith Thompson (University of Notre Dame, Sydney)

8: 50 am – 9: 20 am / Registration

Acknowledgement of Country (9: 25 – 9: 40 am)

Conducted by Elder Wally Bell

Key Address (2): 9: 45 – 10: 30 am

Place: RSSS Auditorium (room 1.28)

Presider: Dr Melissa Lovell (ANU) (9: 45 am – 9: 50 am)

IT volunteer: Eko Sumando (ANU)

Key Speaker: (9: 50 am – 10:30 am)

Religious Discrimination in the Playground

Suzanne D. Rutland (University of Sydney)

Announcement: David W. Kim (ANU)

10:30 am – 11: 00 am / Coffee Break

Presentations

11: 00 am – 12: 30 pm / RSSS Building

Parallel Session 4: Higher Education and Religion (I)

Chair: Duncan Wright (Australian National University)

IT volunteer: Eko Sumando (ANU)

Room: RSSS Auditorium (room 1.28)

Paper 1: *Relearning Religion: Modelling A Community for Student-Centred Learning*

Tara B. M. Smith (University of Sydney)

Dan Tower (University of Sydney)

Paper 2: *Revising Education Curricular on Islam in Light of Covenants in the Qur'an and Sunnah*

Halim Rane (Griffith University)

Paper 3: *Improving Adolescent Mental Health through High School Religious Education*

Louise Cosgrove (University of Queensland)

Parallel Session 5: Religious Conflict with Education

Chair: Keith Thompson (University of Notre Dame, Sydney)

IT volunteer: Tita Tabije (ANU)

Room: Lectorial 1 (room 1.21)

Paper 1: *Speaking for and about the 'Christian' View in Public Debates about*

Australian Schooling in the 1970s and 1980s

Helen Proctor (University of Sydney)

Jessica Gerrard (University of Melbourne)

Susan Goodwin (University of Sydney)

Paper 2: *Whatever Happened to the 9% Rule?: Responding to Non-Catholic Students in Catholic Schools*

Richard Rymarz (BBI-TAITE in Sydney)

Paper 3: *Religion and Relationships and Sexuality Education: A Responsive*

Resurgence

Fida Sanjakdar (Monash University)

Sarah-Jane Page (Aston University, UK)

Céline Benoit (Aston University, UK)

12: 30 pm – 2:00 pm / Lunch Begin

Preparation at Lectorial 2 (room 1.23)

Lunch Time Special Performance (12: 50 pm – 1: 20 pm):

Taiwan T.J.M. Visual Performing Art

President: Dr Yun Zhou (Committee member)

Volunteer: Rebekah Kim (Australian Catholic University)

Presentations

2:00 pm – 3: 30 pm / RSSS Building

Parallel Session 6: Theory and Method (I)

Chair: Pauline Ridge (Australian National University)

IT volunteer: Kaaren Sephton (ANU)

Room: RSSS Auditorium (room 1.28)

Paper 1: Tim Winter and Neo-Traditionalism: *Implications for Islamic Schools*

Nadeem Memon (University of South Australia)

Paper 2: *American, Global and Australian Patterns*: Measuring Neo-

Pentecostal Modern Education Philosophically, Sociologically, and in
Critical Historiography

Neville Buch (State Library of Queensland)

Paper 3: *Religious Literacy between History and Story*: Challenges and
Opportunities for the Millennial Classroom

Emmanuel Nathan (Australian Catholic University)

Parallel Session 7: Higher Education and Religion (II)

Chair: Massimo Introvigne (Centre for Studies on New Religions, Italy)

IT volunteer: Joshua Willsher (ANU)

Room: Lectorial 1 (room 1.21)

Paper 1: The (Lack of) Space for Religion in Canadian Law Schools

Paige Thombs (University of Victoria, Canada)

Paper 2: *Religion vs Society*: Case of Women Rights in Pashtun Tribes of
Pakistan

Naseem Akhter (Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Pakistan)

Arshad Munir (Ghazi University, Pakistan)

Paper 3: Critical Thinking Instruction in Islamic Higher Education:

Investigating Lecturer's Perception and Approaches

Mariam Ulpah (Universitas Islam International, Indonesia)

Parallel Session 8: High Schools and Religious Education

Chair: Tara B. M. Smith (University of Sydney)

IT volunteer: Tita Tabije (ANU)

Room: Lectorial 2 (room 1.23)

Paper 1: Balancing Function of Law in Conflicts over Children's Education and

Parents' Religious Considerations

Shirin Boroomand (Shahid Beheshti University, Iran)

Paper 2: Interrogating the Nexus of Education and Religion for Poverty

Reduction and Entrepreneurship: The Case of Nigeria

Nathaniel Adeyemi Adebayo (The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria)

Paper 3: *Locating the Crisis*: A Starting Point for Dialogue in Senior RE

Paul Chigwidden (Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga, NSW)

3: 30 pm – 4: 00 pm / Coffee Break

Presentations

4: 00 pm – 5: 30 pm / RSSS Building

Parallel Session 8.5: Politics and Religious Education (0.5)

Chair: Rosita Šorytė (European Federation for Freedom of Belief)

IT volunteer: Rebekah Kim (Australian Catholic University)

Room: RSSS Auditorium (room 1.28)

Special Panel: Creating Political Awareness to counter Religious Vilification in

NSW Government Schools

Murray Norman (Alphacrucis University College, Sydney)

Darren Bark (CEO, NSW Jewish Board of Deputies)

Surinder Jain (Vice-President, Hindu Council of Australia)

Shadi Alsuleiman (President, Australian National Imams Council)

Parallel Session 9: Politics and Religious Education (I)

Chair: Anne Keary (Monash University)

IT volunteer: Kaaren Sephton (ANU)

Room: Lectorial 1 (room 1.21)

Paper 1: Germany as an Example for Religion and Education

Peter Antes (Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany)

Paper 2: Religious Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: *Threatened and Thriving*

Abdurezak Abdulahi Hashi (International Islamic University, Malaysia)

Ismail Bile Hassan (Metropolitan State University, USA)

Paper 3: What is Meant by 'Secular' in Australian Education Law?

Andrew Long (University of Adelaide)

Parallel Session 10: Students and Spirituality

Chair: Naomi Barnes (Queensland University of Technology)

IT volunteer: Joshua Willsher (ANU)

Room: Lectorial 2 (room 1.23)

Paper 1: The 'Hadith of Gabriel' and its Educational Implications

Halil Avci (University of St Andrews, UK)

Paper 2: The Role of Religiosity Teaching in Muslim Communities in Sydney

Mehrnosh Lajevardi Fatemi (Western Sydney University)

Paper 3: The Idea of the Secular University in Australian Higher Education

Allan Patience (University of Melbourne)

** 5: 45 meet at RSSS Building (with Dr Yun Zhou) to walk to conference restaurant

Conference Dinner	6: 30 pm – 8: 30 pm	Presiders: Conference committee (best paper award and bursary)	Place: Golden Drum (Shop 1, 14 Childers St., Canberra)
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Saturday April 15, 2023
Place: RSSS Building

8: 40 am – 8: 50 am / Registration

Presentations

9: 00 am – 10: 30 am / RSSS Building

Parallel Session 11: Higher Education and Religion (III)

Chair: Melissa Lovell (Australian National University)

IT volunteer: Eko Sumando (ANU)

Room: RSSS Auditorium (room 1.28)

Paper 1: Religious Studies (Christianity) for Intellectual Disabilities in Hong

Kong: *A Curriculum Adjustment*

Lap Yan Kung (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Paper 2: The Impact of Religious Texts in the Promotion of Value Education in
Higher Education Institutions of Pakistan

Arshad Munir (Ghazi University, Pakistan)

Naseem Akhter (Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Pakistan)

Paper 3: The Constitutionality of Ecclesiastical Establishment in America's
Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Adrian M. Deese (University of Michigan, USA)

Parallel Session 12: Politics and Religious Education (II)

Chair: Duncan Wright (Australian National University)

IT volunteer: Kaaren Sephton (ANU)

Room: Lectorial 1 (room 1.21)

Paper 1: Citizenship Education through a Post-colonial Lens: *A Comparative
Analysis of Australia and Pakistan*

Ayesha Khalid (LaTrobe University, Melbourne)

Paper 2: The Complex Interplay of Economy, Politics, and Religious Education
in Bangladesh: *An Empirical Analysis of the Current Landscape*

Ashraf U Bhuiyan (Bangladesh Open Innovation Lab and

Independent University of Bangladesh)

Paper 3: Khenpo Sodargye and Religious Education in Chinese Societies

Joshua Esler (Sheridan Institute of Higher Education, Perth)

Parallel Session 13: Religious Policy in Education (II)

Chair: Lina Koleilat (Australian National University)

IT volunteer: Elisa Scorsini (ANU)

Room: Lectorial 2 (room 1.23)

Paper 1: *Secular Liturgies: Nondenominational Spiritual Gatherings in Australian Schools*

Robert MacPherson (Pembroke School/ University of South Australia)

Paper 2: Moral Education in Thailand from Theravāda Buddhist Perspective:

Concept of Good and Bad, Social Ethics and Happiness

Niloy Barua (Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Thailand)

Paper 3: *Challenging Preconceptions: Understanding the Employability of*

Madrassa Graduates

Safiullah Junejo (International Islamic University of Indonesia)

10: 30 am – 11: 00 am / Coffee Break

Presentations

11: 00 am – 12: 30 am / RSSS Building

Parallel Session 14: Theory and Method (II)

Chair: Yun Zhou (Australian National University)

IT volunteer: Tita Tabije (ANU)

Room: RSSS Auditorium (room 1.28)

Paper 1: Christian Service Learning: *Action to Faith – Faith to Action*

Chris Callus (Australian Association for Religious Education)

Paper 2: Mobilizing College Students to Apply Faith and Social

Entrepreneurship in Addressing Global Suffering

Warner Woodworth (University of Utah, USA)

Paper 3: The 21-day Training Education for the Korean Religion of ‘Seungni Jedan’

Gang-Hyen Han (International Academy of Neo-humans Culture, Korea)

Parallel Session 15: Catholic Education

Chair: Dr Neville Bush (State Library of Queensland)

IT volunteer: Rebekah Kim (ACU)

Room: Lectorial 1 (room 1.21)

Paper 1: *Girls and Catholic Education: Stories of Three Generations of*

Australian Mothers and Daughters

Anne Keary (Monash University)

Paper 2: A Historical Review of Irish Education Reform in 1960s

Yanan Shen (Shanghai University, China)

Paper 3: Synergy between Religious Education and Life Education:

a Hong Kong case

Lap Yan Kung (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Parallel Session 16: Conscience Education, Spiritual Movements, and Conflict in Taiwan: *The Tai Ji Men Case*

Chair: Massimo Introvigne (Centre for Studies on New Religions, Italy)

IT volunteer: Elisa Scorsini (ANU)

Room: Lectorial 2 (room 1.23)

Paper 1: Conscience Education, Spirituality, and Tai Ji Men: *An Emic View*

Chen Yi-Shuan (Federation of World Peace and Love, Taiwan)

Paper 2: Education and Spirituality at the United Nations: *The International Day of Conscience*

Rosita Šorytė (European Federation for Freedom of Belief [FOB])

Paper 3: Conscience Education and Conflict in Taiwan: *The Tai Ji Men Case*

Rebecca Wang (Tax and Legal Reform League, Taiwan)

Paper 4: Reactions in Taiwan to Local Spiritual Movements' International Educational Activism and the Rhetoric of "Cults"

Massimo Introvigne (Centre for Studies on New Religions, Italy)

12: 30 pm – 1: 15 pm / Lunch

Free Post-Conference Trip

- 1: 20PM - Meeting for Field Trip with Duncan and David
- 1: 30PM - Depart ANU Coombs Building to Thai Buddhist Temple
- 2: 30PM - Depart Thai Buddhist Temple to Mt Ainslie
- 3: 15PM - Depart Mt Ainslie to Canberra Islamic Centre
- 4: 30PM - Depart Canberra Islamic Centre to Weston Park
- 5: 20PM - Depart Weston Park to ANU Coombs Building
- 5: 30PM - Arrive to Australian National University

End of the ANU Religion Conference 2023