



Religion and the State

Two public events hosted by the Centre for Faith in Public Life at Wesley House, Cambridge

Both events take place at Wesley House, Jesus Lane, CB5 8BJ

Free but registration required: [click here](#)

Is the Liberal State Secular?

A public lecture by Professor Cécile Laborde

Monday 21 November, 5.00-6.30pm



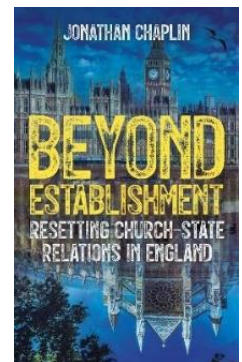
Under which conditions does a state meet basic criteria of liberal legitimacy? In particular, is it permissible for a state to endorse and promote a religion – and under which conditions? In this lecture, I introduce secularism as a minimal normative requirement of state legitimacy. I understand secularism, not as a comprehensive non-religious conception of the good, but as a political doctrine specifying the rightful place of religion in the state. Secularism does not focus on the duties and dispositions of citizens but, rather, on the institutions of the state and the obligations of its officials. It asks whether liberal democracy requires some form of separation between state and religion, which, and why.

Cécile Laborde is the Nuffield Chair of Political Theory at the University of Oxford. She is notably the author of *Critical Republicanism. The Hijab Controversy and Political Philosophy* (Oxford University Press 2008) and *Liberalism's Religion* (Harvard University Press 2017).

Should the Church of England be Disestablished?

A roundtable on [Beyond Establishment: Resetting Church-State Relations in England](#) by Jonathan Chaplin

Tuesday 22 November, 3.30-5.00pm



The upcoming coronation of King Charles III will evoke renewed scrutiny of the intimate ties between the UK state and the Church of England. In *Beyond Establishment*, Anglican political theologian Dr Jonathan Chaplin (Wesley House) argues that the Church of England should initiate a process of disestablishment in order to renounce unwarranted privilege, claim greater autonomy over its affairs, and free it to fulfil its national mission with greater authenticity and courage. The roundtable includes contributions from Dr Abdullah Sahin (Warwick), the Revd Dr Helen Dawes (Westcott House) and Dr Richard Davis (Wesley House), followed by open discussion.



Jonathan Chaplin



Abdullah Sahin



Helen Dawes



Richard Davis

These events take place within the framework of a two-day invited workshop on 'The Future of European Religion-State Regimes', funded by DAAD-Cambridge Research Hub for German Studies.