

“War and the Role of Religion in a Just and Sustainable World”

Global Ethics and Religion Forum Panels
December 5, 6, 7 & 8, 2009
Parliament of the Worlds Religions, Melbourne

In an increasingly interdependent world, the destructive power of war continues to loom over the lives of people in many parts of the globe. War has taken on frightening new forms as technology has provided new forms of weaponry, and as the dynamics of war have expanded to engulf whole populations and environments. Arrayed against deep human aspirations to live in a harmony and peace, the persistence of war threatens justice and sustainable living and poses a daunting challenge to the world’s religions.

This Symposium aims to address these challenges through an analysis of the theory of Just War, a doctrine with a long history of religious reflection. This doctrine holds that armed conflict must be restrained by clearly articulated ethical criteria. In collaboration with the Global Ethics and Religion Forum, an educational non-profit dedicated to promoting global ethical responsibility, this Symposium will address the need for a revised and complete ethics of war and peace for a just world. The multi-religious panels offered on this subject will explore a some of the most salient ways in which the role of religious traditions in just war thinking intersect with and can be brought to bear upon important dimensions of human and planetary sustainability:

Panel 1: “World Religions Perspectives on Justice, War and Peace”

Panel 2: “Religion and the Future of Military Humanitarian Intervention in a Just and Sustainable World”

Panel 3: “The Role of Religion in Post War Reconciliation, Treaties, Constitutions and International Law”

Panel 4. “What is Peace in a Just and Sustainable World?”

Saturday, December 5, 11:30 – 2:30, Room 110

Introduction: Rev. Dr. William Leshar, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Parliament of the World’s Religions; Board Member, Global Ethics and Religion Forum

The Project to Revise Just War Theory: Dr. Joseph Runzo, President, Global Ethics and Religion Forum, USA

Panel #1: “Religions Perspectives on Justice, War and Peace”

Chair: Rev. Dr. David L.C. Clark, Chair Von Hugel Institute, St. Edmund’s College, Cambridge University, ENGLAND

Speakers:

Dr. Gerhard Beestermuler, (Christianity) Associate Director, Institute for Theology and Peace, GERMANY

Dr. Irfan Omar, (Islam) Assistant Professor of Theology and Islam, Marquette University, USA

Dr. Arvind Sharma, (Hinduism) Birks Professor of Comparative Religion, McGill University, CANADA

Dr. Dan-Erik Andersson, (Human Rights, Religion and Just War) Director of Human Rights Studies, University of Lund, SWEDEN

Dr. Philip Rossi S.J., (Kant and Western Just War Theory) Professor of Theology, Marquette University; Board Member, Global Ethics and Religion Forum, USA

Dr. Brian Lepard, (Baha'i) Professor of Law, University of Nebraska, USA

Response: Bishop Antje Jackelen, Bishop of Lund, SWEDEN

Sunday, December 6, 11:30 – 2:30, Room 110

Panel #2: “Religion and the Future of Military Humanitarian Intervention in a Just and Sustainable World”

Chair: Dr. Joseph Runzo, President, Global Ethics and Religion Forum, USA

Speakers:

Dr. Brian Lepard, Professor of Law, University of Nebraska, USA

Dr. Gerhard Beestermuler, Associate Director, Institute for Theology and Peace, GERMANY

Dr. Dan-Erik Andersson, (Human Rights, Religion and Just War) Director of Human Rights Studies, University of Lund, SWEDEN

Respondant:

Dr. C.A.O. Coady, Professor of Philosophy and former Director Centre for Applied Ethics and Public Policy, University of Melbourne, AUSTRALIA

Sunday, December 6, 11:30 – 2:30, Room 110

Documentary Premiere 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.: “*The Sacred Planet*”

Monday, December 7, 11:30 – 2:30, Room 110

Panel #3: “Post War Reconciliation, Treaties, Constitutions and International Law”

Chair: David W. Vikner, President, Japan International Christian University Foundation, New York, USA

Speakers:

Dr. William Steele, Dean of Liberal Arts, International Christian University, JAPAN

Dr. Brian Lepard, Professor of Law, University of Nebraska, USA
Dr. Nathan Tierney, Professor of Ethics, California Lutheran University;
Board Member, Global Ethics and Religion Forum, USA
Dr. Pal Ahluwalia, FASSA, Board Member, Global Ethics and Religion Forum, USA;
Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President: Division of Education, Arts and Social
Sciences; University of South Australia, AUSTRALIA
Dr. Michael Dutton, Professor of Politics, Goldsmiths, University of London; Professor
of Political Cultures, Griffith University, AUSTRALIA

Response: Dr. Frank Brennan S.J., AO (Order of Australia) Fellow, Research School of
Pacific and Asian Studies at ANU; and Professor of Law in the Institute of Legal Studies
at the Australian Catholic University; chair, national community consultation on human
rights in Australia, AUSTRALIA

Tuesday, December 8, 11:30 – 2:30, Room 110

Panel #4: “What is Peace in a Just and Sustainable World?”

Chair: Rabbi Elie Spitz, Congregation B’nai Israel; Member, Board of Directors, Global
Ethics and Religion Forum, USA

Speakers:

Dr. Pal Ahluwalia, FASSA, Board Member, Global Ethics and Religion Forum, USA;
Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President: Division of Education, Arts and Social
Sciences; University of South Australia, AUSTRALIA

Dr. Michael Dutton, Professor of Politics, Goldsmiths, University of London; Professor
of Political Cultures, Griffith University, AUSTRALIA

Colin Honey, M.A., Director, Lonsdale Centre for Applied Ethics, Melbourne; Member,
Programme in Religion and Ethics in War and Peace-Making, St. Edmund’s
College, Cambridge University, ENGLAND and AUSTRALIA

Dr. Nathan Tierney, Professor of Ethics, California Lutheran University;
Board Member, Global Ethics and Religion Forum, USA

Dr. Philip Rossi S.J., Professor of Theology, Marquette University; Board Member,
Global Ethics and Religion Forum, USA

Response: Rev. Dr. David L.C. Clark, Chair Von Hugel Institute, St. Edmund’s College,
Cambridge University, ENGLAND