



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF  
**CITIZENSHIP**

## **Fifteenth Annual Conference in Citizenship Studies Religion and Citizenship**

Wayne State University  
Detroit, Michigan, USA  
April 12 - 14, 2018

### **The Center for the Study of Citizenship**

Marc Kruman, Director

in collaboration with

**The Centre for Citizenship, Social Pluralism and Religious Diversity, University of Potsdam**

Jürgen Mackert, Bryan Turner, and Gregor Fitzi, Co-Directors

### **Keynote Speaker**

**Bryan Turner**

- Professor of Sociology, Australian Catholic University (Melbourne)
  - Max Planck Honorary Professor, Potsdam University

### **Plenary Speaker**

**Saeed Khan**

- Lecturer in Near East & Asian Studies, Global Studies
- Research Fellow, Center for the Study of Citizenship, Wayne State University
  - Honorary Fellow, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne

## **Call for Papers**

Religion has been, and continues to be, central to any notion of citizenship. The ideal of a rights-bearing citizen has its roots in assertions of freedom from religious persecution. While the separation of church and state continues to serve as a foundational principle for secular states, religion remains entwined with those states and the public lives of their citizens. Communitarian thinkers argue that this is as it should be, religion provides purpose and value to community membership and cannot be removed from any meaningful definition of citizenship. Despite claims for secular tolerance of religious beliefs, exclusions from citizenship are too often based on religious differences, differences that can also involve ethnic and racial identity. Tensions created by religious exclusion, persecution, and discrimination can further impact citizenship by fueling secessionist movements, political revolutions, and genocides.

Religion's influence on citizenship ranges across a wide variety of issues, among these are:

- The politics of populism and the expression of anti-immigrant sentiments in the United States presidential election.
- The history of religious sectarianism that includes The Troubles in Northern Ireland, the Bosnian War, the Armenian genocide, and Shia-Sunni sectarian violence.
- The cultural and legal contentions over citizens appearing in public spaces in religious clothing, most recently exemplified in the burkini ban in Nice, France.

- The rise of Hindu nationalism in India as part of a long history of struggle against colonial rule and formulation of a postcolonial political identity.
- The debates over religious symbols and observances in government spaces, such as the display of the Ten Commandments on a monument at the Texas State Capitol.

To apply, please email Ms Aimée Moran at [citizenship@wayne.edu](mailto:citizenship@wayne.edu) with three attachments: an abstract of 500 words or less, your C.V., and a 50-word bio. Please be sure that your full name, the name of your institution and your email address are included on each page submitted. **Please email us your materials no later than 5:00pm EST on Friday, September 29, 2017.**

We will notify applicants of their acceptance to present work at the conference by October 15, 2017. We will invite presenters to submit full papers for further review by our advisory board.

### **International Scholars:**

We provide a limited number of scholarships for international scholars. These funds will be distributed on a competitive basis. Scholarships include three nights of lodging and a discounted conference registration rate for the participant, but no transportation. If you wish to be considered for a scholarship, please indicate it in your email.

For international scholars who submit proposals by **September 1, 2017**, the program committee will make early decisions about acceptance and scholarships by **September 15, 2017**.