



Chester Ronning Centre
for the Study of Religion and Public Life



Call for Papers: Religion and Law in North America

The Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion in Public Life at the University of Alberta, Augustana Campus (in Camrose, Alberta) is pleased to announce an upcoming conference, “Religion and Law in North America: Comparisons between Canada and the United States.”

Conference dates: April 12-13, 2018

Religion and law are sometimes at odds. Other times they reinforce the power of each other. This conference calls together scholars of Canada and the United States who are interested in questions of religion and law broadly, to discuss how religious liberty functions—and has functioned historically—in each country. Each has distinct histories, practices, and relationships between religion and law, though the countries are close neighbors and allies. Both countries lack an established church and ensure free exercise of religion for their citizens, but do so differently. In each country one can find tensions between federal government ideals of religious liberty and more local state or provincial religious liberty conceptions. In each context, one also finds distinct histories of interaction between colonial governments and Indigenous peoples and nations. We hope contributors will analyze some of the ways by which multi-scalar research illumines or obscures how religious liberty has functioned in North America.

We thus welcome papers looking at religion and law in Canada and/or the U.S. We are particularly interested in papers that address:

- Religious liberty and its varied practices at federal and provincial/state levels
- Historic trends of religion and law and their interrelationship
- Law and Indigenous religious practice/spirituality

Proposals of no more than 300 words should be sent to ronningcentre@ualberta.ca by January 23, 2019. Please include “Religion and Law Conference” in the subject line. Proposals should include the presenter’s name, institutional and departmental affiliation, and email address as well as the paper title and abstract. The Centre has funding to help support travel for those giving papers. For more information about the Centre, see: <https://www.ualberta.ca/augustana/research/centres/crc>.