



The Crisis of Religious Freedom in the Age of COVID-19 Pandemic

Guest Editor:

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (15 January 2021)

Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The so-called lockdown, imposed to restrain (or at least limit) the spread of COVID-19, had an overwhelming impact not only on our personal lives, but also on the exercise of religious freedom, which suffered unprecedented restrictions. Legal systems responded individually, and with differences, to the pandemic emergency, ranging from a complete interruption of the collective exercise of religious worship to a more cautious recognition of forms of religious accommodation.

This Special Issue aims to compare the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on the exercise of religious freedom in different legal contexts, and to investigate how the pandemic crisis emphasized underlying judicial, political, socio-cultural, ethnic and economic challenges, giving rise to a tension between competing rights and exacerbating the tension between public religiously-neutral policies and claims for religious accommodation.

Actually, its analysis only in terms of church state relationships would be incomplete: for this reason the Special Issue welcomes contributions which offer a serious investigation involving deep sociological, historical, political, and religious studies perspectives.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Laws is an international, open access journal featuring rigorous scholarship on critical developments in governance, courts, agencies, and social order. Analysis and synthesis, theory and practice, and empirical and doctrinal work have appeared in the journal; contributions that bridge these traditional boundaries are particularly welcome. The social sciences and humanities generate insights both from and for the legal system. While theory grounds *Laws* in a timeless dialogue shaped by traditions of inquiry, legal practice ensures that scholars are addressing pressing problems. Both normative and positive scholarship can aid policymakers, judges, and agency officials. *Laws* brings together the work of theorists and practitioners, and a diverse range of empirical researchers, to promote the progress of foundational legal norms.

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