

1st International conference on religion and politics

Relations between religion and politics as a subject of research of political science

Warsaw (Poland), 30 November– 1 December 2017

The idea of the conference

The aim of the conference is to reflect on the ways of studying the relations between religion and politics on the grounds of political science. In fact, even though religion is increasingly being noticed by political science, with the term of "political science of religion" being often discussed in the scientific community, sometimes the presented studies show some kind of methodological confusion, resulting from the ambiguities related to the political science-specific approach to the studies on religion. Other serious questions have also arisen: what should be the approach of the researchers themselves towards religion; what should be the significance of impartiality that guarantees a research objectivity; can religion possibly be studied, without being reduced to a caricature, using the tools of political science; if yes, what calibration, if any, do these tools require; finally, what is the contribution of the studies on religion to the identity of a discipline founded in the era of the positivist paradigm.

The above-mentioned important questions could be multiplied. In the light of their multitude, we decided that the aim of the conference will be limited to the methodological issues. We want to reflect, in particular, on three questions: (1) does political science need to relate to religion, and why; (2) what are the features that distinguish the approach to religion on the grounds of political science; can a political definition be defined, or, at least, can religion be perceived through the prism of political science; (3) what research paradigms applied in political science can be considered appropriate for studying religious phenomena, and what are their possible limits? Of course, the methodological reflection requires precise exemplifications, hence the conference will also serve as an area for discussion on the results of the studies on religion conducted on the grounds of political science.

Special guests of the conference include professor Jeffrey Haynes (London Metropolitan University), top researcher of relations between politics and religion in the European political science. He will present the results of his current research, and reveal and discuss with the participants the set of instruments he used in that research.