

## 2nd Biennial Conference on Religion and Politics

# Secularism as a challenge for politics and political science

Warsaw (Poland), 12– 13 December 2019

### The idea of the conference

As Ernst-Wolfgang Böckenförde pointed out, although for thousands of years thinking and theories of the political order in society were associated with religious imaginations, and in Christian times – also theological ones, the modern political sciences have understood themselves as “atheist in the proper sense”. For a long time it caused a kind of “religious cataract” of political science.

In the above context, richer in the experience of the conference in 2017, which revealed the methodological and theoretical possibilities of political science in the study of religion and politics, in this edition, we would like to think about how secularism affects – on one hand – the way politics is being understood and – on the other hand – the way it affects the studies within political science. Therefore, we would like to invite you for common reflection on the possible meaning of the “post-secular turn” for the approach of contemporary politics and political science to the “question of God”.

The special guests of the conference will be: prof. Joseph H. H. Weiler (New York University), an American lawyer, an eminent specialist in the field of constitutional, international and EU law, and prof. Fabio Petito, (University of Sussex), the Director of the *Freedom of Religion or Belief and Foreign Policy Initiative* at the University of Sussex, a scientist specializing in research on the influence of the religious factor on international relations. The title of prof. J. Weiler's speech is *The New Confessional State: Secularism*. Whereas prof. F. Petito will give a lecture entitled *Religious Engagement in International Relations: Overcoming secular blind spots and building a postsecular sensitivity in foreign policy*.