

James Madison Program
in American Ideals and Institutions

**RELIGIOUS PARTICULARITY AND MORAL
UNIVERSALITY: FAITH, REASON, AND NATURAL LAW**
The Annual Robert J. Giuffra '82 Conference

Tuesday, May 14 - Wednesday, May 15, 2019
Frist Campus Center 301 (Frist Theater), Princeton University

A public conference presented by
The James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University
Cosponsored by
The Association for the Study of Free Institutions, Texas Tech University

How are we to understand the relationship between religion and the free society? On the one hand, it might seem that religion was necessary to the rise of freedom in the modern world. Free societies emerged first in nations that had been influenced for generations by biblical religion. Moreover, the biblical claim that each human being is created in the image and likeness of God may be a necessary foundation of the belief in the dignity of each individual, on which the free society is based. On the other hand, religion has sometimes been a tool of oppression, and many of the intellectual architects of modern free societies understood themselves as limiting the role of religion in politics, seeking to establish political communities based primarily or exclusively on reason and rational self-interest. Moving beyond the origins of free societies, we encounter the question, how does religion relate to free societies once they have come into existence? Does the modern free society undermine religion, or does it open a space in which religion can flourish? How should the defenders of the free society think about religion's place within it? Conversely, how should religious believers think about their place in the free society?

Addressing these important questions, the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions and the Association for the Study of Free Institutions are pleased to announce a conference entitled "Religious Particularity and Moral Universality: Faith, Reason, and Natural Law." The program includes scholars from a variety of disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. We address a number of questions. What are the foundations of and the requirements of the natural law? What does natural law teach us about the role of religion in the free society? What is the state of contemporary Jewish-Christian relations? What contributions can Judaism and Christianity make to the free society? How have Jewish thinkers responded to modernity and its understanding of freedom? Finally, what challenges does religion face in the modern free society, and what challenges do such societies face in trying to maintain a proper relation to the religious traditions and communities that exist within them?

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019

All conference sessions in **Frist Campus Center 301 (Frist Theater)**, unless otherwise noted.

10:30 a.m. to Noon Presentation of the **2019 James Q. Wilson Award for Distinguished Scholarship on the Nature of a Free Society** to **David Novak**

Presenter: **Robert P. George**, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence; Director, James Madison Program, *Princeton University*, on behalf of the *Association for the Study of Free Institutions*

Keynote: **David Novak**, J. Richard & Dorothy Shiff Chair of Jewish Studies and Professor of Religion and Philosophy, *University of Toronto*

1:30 to 3:15 p.m. **Natural Law**

Panelists: **Daniel Mark**, Assistant Professor of Political Science, *Villanova University*
Karen Taliaferro, Assistant Professor, School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership, *Arizona State University*

Christopher Tollefsen, College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor; Chair, Department of Philosophy, *University of South Carolina*

Chair: **Lee J. Strang**, 2018-19 Visiting Fellow, James Madison Program, *Princeton University*; John W. Stoepler Professor of Law & Values, *University of Toledo College of Law*

3:45 to 5:30 p.m. **Jewish-Christian Relations**

Panelists: **Samuel Goldman**, Executive Director, Loeb Institute for Religious Freedom; Assistant Professor of Political Science, *George Washington University*

Peter Ochs, Edgar M. Bronfman Professor of Modern Judaic Studies, *University of Virginia*

R. R. Reno, Editor, *First Things*

Chair: **Bronwen C. McShea**, 2018-19 Associate Research Scholar, James Madison Program, *Princeton University*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019

All conference sessions in **Frist Campus Center 301 (Frist Theater)**, unless otherwise noted.

9:00 to 10:45 a.m. **Dimensions of Modern Jewish Political Thought**

Panelists: **Leora Batnitzky**, Ronald O. Perelman Professor of Jewish Studies; Professor of Religion; Chair, Department of Religion, *Princeton University*
Kenneth Hart Green, Professor of Religion, *University of Toronto*
Nathan Pinkoski, Associate Research Scholar, James Madison Program; Lecturer in Politics, *Princeton University*

Chair: **Mitchell Rocklin**, 2018-19 Postdoctoral Research Associate, James Madison Program, *Princeton University*

11:15 to 1:00 p.m. Religion, Ethics, and Public Affairs

Panelists: **Hadley Arkes**, Edward N. Ney Professor of Jurisprudence Emeritus, *Amherst College*
Eric Gregory, Professor of Religion and Chair of the Council of the Humanities, *Princeton University*
Michael Walzer, Professor Emeritus of Social Science, *Institute for Advanced Study*

Chair: **Alfred Kentigern Siewers**, 2018-19 William E. Simon Visiting Fellow in Religion and Public Life, James Madison Program, *Princeton University*; Associate Professor of English, *Bucknell University*

2:30 to 4:30 p.m. A Consideration of the Thought of David Novak

Panelists: **Matthew Levering**, James N. and Mary D. Perry, Jr. Chair of Theology, *University of Saint Mary of the Lake*
Randi L. Rashkover, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Judaic Studies Program, *George Mason University*

Respondent: **David Novak**, J. Richard & Dorothy Shiff Chair of Jewish Studies and Professor of Religion and Philosophy, *University of Toronto*

Chair: **Robert P. George**, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence; Director, James Madison Program, *Princeton University*

The 2019 Robert J. Giuffra '82 Conference is dedicated to the memory of
Daniel N. Robinson
March 9, 1937 - September 17, 2018

QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO:

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