



## FORB and Vulnerability

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL ISFORB CONFERENCE  
ETF LEUVEN, 8-9 MAY 2025

**\*\*\* DRAFT SCHEDULE of 03/04/2025 \*\*\***

*If you see any mistakes or need for change,  
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**ISFORB**

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY  
OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION  
OR BELIEF

ISFORB is  
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## Thursday, 8 May 2025

9:00-10:00	Arrival, registration & coffee	
10:00-11:45	<b>PLENARY SESSION 1</b>	
	Welcome & Mutual introductions I	
	<b>Vulnerability and the Need for Justice: The Promise of Martha Nussbaum's Political Philosophy for FORB</b>	
	Steven van den Heuvel (ETF Leuven)	
12:00-13:00	PAPERS SESSION 1	
	Room A	State Supervision and Religious Freedom: Examining the Dutch "Law on Supervision of Informal Education" (Auke Dijkstra)
		The potential effect of the European Union's Digital Services Act on religious expression (Georgia du Plessis)
	Room B	The Hospitality of Translation, Memory Exchange, and Forgiveness: In Search of a New Ethos of Interfaith Relations with Paul Ricoeur and Richard Kearney (Roman Soloviy)
		Vulnerability and otherness – vulnerability as dependent and decisive in the philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas (Fredrik Smetana)
	Room C	The vulnerability of mystery cults, the decline of Roman Mithraism (S. Geusens)
		Why might 'cults' be particularly vulnerable? (Eileen Barker)
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:15	<b>PLENARY SESSION 2</b>	
	Mutual introductions II	
	<b>[To be attributed]</b>	
	Leita Ngoy (Oikos Institute)	
15:15-16:15	PAPERS SESSION 2	
	Room A	Rethinking Neutrality: Invisible Exclusion of Religious Freedom from the Public Sphere (Lidia Rieder)
		Religious Exclusion: Legal Perspectives on Religious Autonomy and Human Rights in European Context (Mirjam van Schaik; Sien Devriendt)
	Room B	FoRB, Vulnerability, and Paradoxes: Insights from the History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Amy Lynn Andrus)
		"Above all, love each other deeply" (Kristina Patring)
	Room C	The Impacts of State Recognition and Registration on Religious Communities (Brandon Reece Taylorian)
		Religious minorities in times of emergency: religion at the crossroads of resilience and vulnerability (Adelaide Madera)
16:30-17:30	PAPERS SESSION 3	
	Room A	The Right to Observance of Religious Holidays and Days of Rest – What type of Accommodation can/should be guaranteed for Religious Minorities? (Archil Metreveli)
		The Legal Perspective on Vulnerability: How FoRB Policies Affect Non-Catholic Individuals and Groups in Poland (Weronika Kudła)
	Room C	Conscience in a plural society. A systematic theological investigation into the positive and negative boundaries of the protection of conscience (D. Giesbrecht)
		Theology in the Service of Eugenic Sciences: Gerhard Kittel and Jewish Caricatures (Anne-Catherine Pardon)
19:00	Conference Dinner	

**Friday, 9 May 2025**

8:00-9:00	Breakfast (Optional)	
9:30-10:45	<b>PLENARY SESSION 3</b> <b>[To be attributed]</b> Nazila Ghanea (University of Oxford)	
11:00-12:00	PAPERS SESSION 4	
	Room A	Bible Smuggling during the Cold War: The Interconnection of Vulnerability and Resilience (Nadezhda Beliakova)
		The feminisation thesis under scrutiny: the case of the Freethinking women of Ghent (late 19th- early 20th century) (Nyala Nauwelaers)
	Room B	Multi-dimensional vulnerability among Christian women experiencing FoRB violations in India: a survey across five states between January 2023 and December 2024 (Elizabeth Lane Miller; Helene Fisher; Emma van der Deijl)
		Should the woman remain in silence in Church? FoRB for women in two Churches in the Middle East (Gunilla Ikponmwosa)
	Room C	Contextualisation strategies of Anglican missions in Muslim Countries (Duane Miller)
		Testing a Mission Hostility Index: A comparison across diverse countries (Christof Sauer)
12:00-13:00	PAPERS SESSION 5	
	Room A	Christian churches respond to right-wing populism's threat to FoRB in the EU (Job Lobenstein)
		The Fundamental Right of Freedom of Religion and Belief, and its Limitations, in the Vulnerable Process between Corpse Discovery and the Disposal of the Body (Leon van den Broeke)
	Room C	Theology-making among vulnerable religious minorities: Theological discourses of converts from Islam to Christianity in Muslim-majority regions (Joel Hartmann – online)
		Casting the Net Wider: Assessing the Vulnerability of Religious Minorities Beyond Religious Freedom Violations (Dennis Petri - online)
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:00	<b>PLENARY SESSION 4: the GAPS conversation</b>	
15:00-16:00	PAPERS SESSION 6	
	Room A	Farsi-Speaking Converts from Islam to Christianity: Disengagement from their Evangelical Churches (Olga Penner)
		The Entanglement between Christian Churches and Two Sovereigns: Christian Understanding of Justice in Pursuit of Democracy in Hong Kong during the Transition Period (Grace Gaffet)
	Room C	Catastrophe and Common Vulnerability: Earthquake Aid and Interreligious Fractures in Turkey (James Bultema – online)
16:00-16:15	<b>PLENARY SESSION 5: Closing words</b>	