

# Contributors

**Joseph Blankholm** is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the author of *The Secular Paradox: On the Religiosity of the Not Religious* (NYU, 2022), as well as numerous chapters and articles. He is currently at work on a monograph that builds on the “Longitudinal Study of Generations”, which has surveyed and interviewed a set of 357 US families for more than 50 years.

**Niels De Nutte** is a PhD student at the Secular Studies Association Brussels at the *Vrije Universiteit Brussel*. He holds a special PhD scholarship from the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO). He studies the history of euthanasia in Belgium since the early twentieth century and has published on the history of organised humanism, editing *Looking Back to Look Forward. Organised Humanism in the World* (ASP, 2019). He is the associate editor of *Secular Studies* (Brill) and an associate director at the International Society for Historians of Atheism, Secularism and Humanism.

**Vincent Genin** holds a PhD in contemporary history and is assistant at the *Université de Liège* and CEGESOMA/AGR. He holds an *Habilitation à diriger des recherches* (HDR) from the *Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes* (PSL, Paris) and is a member of the *Groupe Sociétés, Religions et Laïcités*. He works on the history and sociology of secularism and *laïcités*. His most recent publication is *Histoire intellectuelle de la laïcité depuis 1905* (Paris, PUF, 2024).

**Eva Guigo-Patzelt** studied political sciences, history and theology in France and in Poland. A book in English based on her doctoral thesis on scientific atheism in the GDR (1963–1990) is currently in preparation. After her PhD from Sorbonne University in 2021, she received an Early Career grant in the Explaining Atheism Programme including funding for a conference on “Communist Perspectives on Atheism in the 20th Century” held in Paris in 2023, due to be published.

**Stacey Gutkowski** is Reader in Peace and Conflict Studies in the Centre for the Study of Divided Societies and Department of War Studies, King’s College London. She is a former Co-Director (2008–2020) and Advisory Board member (2020–2022) of the Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network and co-edits the book series *Religion and its Others: Studies in Religion, Nonreligion and Secularity* (DeGruyter). She has written two books: *Religion, War and Israel’s Secular Millennials: Being Reasonable?* (2020) and *Secular War: Myths of Religion, Politics and Violence* (2013).

**Abraham Hawley-Suárez** is a PhD student in the University of California Santa Barbara’s Department of Religious Studies. His research aims to examine the discursive power of secularism in Mexico by looking at how interreligious organisations live and imagine religion in the public sphere. Shifting the focus from predefined concepts and normative approaches, he explores how these groups experience and potentially redefine religion and the secular as governance categories in their daily activities.

**Jean-François Husson** has a Masters in Economic and Social Sciences (UNamur) and a PhD in political and social sciences (ULiège). He lectures at the UCLouvain, ULiège and the Protestant Faculty of Brussels. Specialised in public finance and public policies, his research and publications cover the funding of humanist and faith-based organisations and related public policies. This includes development of local communities, recruitment, status and training of professionals of

humanist and faith-based organisations, chaplaincies and interreligious and interconvictional dialogue.

**Leo Igwe** holds a Masters in philosophy from the University of Calabar in Nigeria, and a doctoral degree in Religious Studies from the University of Bayreuth in Germany. He was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Department for the Study of Religions (Islam, African Publics and Religious Values) at the University of Cape Town (2021), with research interests in witchcraft and atheism/non-religion in Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria.

**Carolyn Kosuch** is a historian working in the field of modern European cultural, religious and intellectual history. From 2014 to 2018, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the German Historical Institute in Rome. In summer 2023, she earned her *habilitation* from the University of Göttingen, where she currently leads the chair of nineteenth-century history. Her publications include *Freethinkers in Europe: National and Transnational Secularities, 1789–1920s* (DeGruyter, 2020) as editor and *Die Abschaffung des Todes: Säkularistische Ewigkeiten vom 18. bis ins 21. Jahrhundert. Campus, Frankfurt/Main, New York* (2024, forthcoming).

**Anne Lancien** is a postdoctoral researcher at the *Institut d'études politiques de Paris* and an associate researcher at the *Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcité* (GSRL). Her main research interests are the sociology of the non-religious and secularisation, with a particular focus on secular activism. In 2022, she published “Secular Associations as Vectors of Integration and Production of Non-religion in Contemporary Society. The Case of the League of Education,” in *Non-religion in Late Modern Societies. Institutional and Legal Perspectives*, edited by Helge Arsheim and Anne-Laure Zwilling (Springer editions).

**Adelaide Madera** received her PhD in Ecclesiastical Law and Canon Law in 2000. She was an international scholar at the Catholic University of Leuven (1999–2000). She is a Full Professor at the Department of Law of the University of Messina, Italy, where she teaches Canon Law, Law and Religion, Comparative Religious Laws, and Religious Factor and Antidiscrimination Law. She is a member of the Academic Board of the PhD School in Legal Studies at the University of Messina and is author of four books. Her research activities focus on the interrelationship between law and religion, religious organisations and the law and religious and civil marriage.

**David S. Nash** is Professor of History at Oxford Brookes University. He is an international authority on the history of blasphemy and secularism. His books include *Blasphemy in Britain 1789 to the Present* (1999, recently re-issued by Routledge) and *Blasphemy in the Christian World* (OUP, 2007). He recently co-edited (with Evelyn Bouwers) *Demystifying the Sacred: Blasphemy and Violence from the French Revolution to Today* (DeGruyter, 2022). David has also advised on blasphemy laws for the UK, Australian and Irish governments as well as the European Commission.

**Katharina Neef**, PhD, is a researcher and lecturer at Leipzig University where she works at the Institute for the Study of Religion and at the Centre for Teacher Training and School Research. In her dissertation, she researched the influences of social reformers and secularists on the development of the academic discipline of sociology in the early twentieth century. Currently, she is working on the history and formation of ethical education in public schools in Germany and the framing and positioning of religion(s) therein. A recent outcome of this work is the co-edited volume *Handbuch Religionskunde in Deutschland* (deGruyter, 2023).

**Sofia Nikitaki** (KU Leuven/VUB) is a postdoctoral researcher holding two Master's degrees and a Doctorate from the KU Leuven Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies. Since 2019, she has also been serving in the international board of the European Society for Women in Theological Research (ESWTR). Sofia's doctoral research (2017-2023) focused on an empirical examination of nonreligion and nonreligious individuals in different European contexts (Belgium, Greece, Norway) and was conducted under the auspices of the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO). Her current postdoctoral project (2024-2027; FWO-funded) explores how families composed by one religious and one nonreligious partner raising children together navigate worldview dialogue and make decisions about (non)religion within their family units.

**Stefan Schröder** is Senior Researcher and Lecturer at the department for the Study of Religion at the University of Bayreuth, from which he holds a PhD. His research interests include secularity and non-religion, secular humanism, education on religion in public schools and the didactics in the Study of Religion.

**Sabrina Testa** is a visiting professor at the *Universidade Federal da Integração Latinoamericana* (UNILA – Brazil). She has a PhD in Social Anthropology from the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (UFSC – Brazil). In 2022, she completed a postdoctoral degree at the *Groupe Sociétés, Religions et Laïcités* (CNRS/EPHE-PSL – France) within a cooperative project dedicated to the study of recent transformations in state secularism in Brazil and France (CAPES-COFECUB).

**Jeffrey Tyssens** is Professor of Contemporary History at the *Vrije Universiteit Brussel*, where he is also chair of the Secular Studies Association Brussels. He has been a visiting professor in Mainz, Paris and Berkeley. His publications cover the history of freethinkers and freemasons, school wars and the secularisation of funerary culture. He is co-editor of *Quand une religion se termine . . . Facteurs politiques et sociaux de la disparition des religions* (Editions EME, 2020).

**Alain Vannieuwenburg** holds a Masters in moral science from Ghent University and a PhD in law from Leiden University. He specialises in the (Belgian) constitutional and financial organisation of the relation between church and state and secularisation. He is a member of deMens.nu and the humanist think tank *Kwintessens*. He serves on the board of the *Centrum voor Academische en Vrijzinnige Archieven* and the general assembly of the *Raad voor Inspectie en Kwaliteitszorg Zedenleer* (RIKZ.Z).

