



PROTESTANT
THEOLOGICAL
FACULTY
Charles University

We kindly invite all interested colleagues, students, and the larger public to participate in the lecture, which will be given by

Dr. Yoshiyuki Kato

Associate Professor of Rikkyo University, Tokyo

Christianity as Defender of Civilization: The Exhaustion of Western Societies and the Rise of the Far Right

March 5, 2024 at 11:00–12:30 in Room E, 3rd floor
(alternatively Room VP, 1st floor)

The lecture will be given in English.

Over the past two decades, right-wing parties with emphases on religious symbols and discourses began to take center stage in politics in Western societies. These parties have expanded their power by inciting nationalism among the masses, who have grown weary of not being able to enjoy the benefits of globalization. At the core of this nationalist resurgence lies an intricate interplay with religion. However, it is crucial to underscore that this phenomenon does not signify something like a religious revival among the youth, as secularization remains unabated. In what way, then, does religion inspire politics, especially nationalism in the west? According to these parties, religion, or Christianity, is the civilizational foundation of their countries. Especially in an age of increasing Muslim immigration, Christianity assumes a paramount role as a foundational source of identity. This presentation aims to scrutinize the emergent paradigm of identity-based religion, drawing upon examples from both European and American contexts. A focal point of analysis will be the claim propagated by these political factions that Christianity functions as the guardian of Western civilization and a primary source of collective identity. This inquiry will further involve a comparative analysis with the conventional understanding of Christianity in order to better understand the relationship between religion and politics in contemporary Western societies.

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