

Sixth ICLARS Conference
Cordoba (Spain), 7-9 September 2020

***Human Dignity, Law, and Religious Diversity:
Designing the Future of Inter-Cultural Societies***

CALL FOR PAPERS

The President and the Steering Committee of ICLARS are pleased to announce that the 6th ICLARS Conference will be held in Cordoba (Spain), from 7 to 9 September 2020. It will be organized by the Complutense University's research group REDESOC (*Religion, law and society*), directed by Prof. Javier Martínez-Torrón, in collaboration with the University of Cordoba and other public and private institutions. This call can be freely circulated among all persons and institutions that may be interested in it.

The general theme of the conference is: *Human Dignity, Law, and Religious Diversity: Designing the Future of Inter-Cultural Societies*. The aim is to analyse how the notion of human dignity, which is the central axis of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, can help create common ground between competing understandings of human rights. Human rights were conceived as an instrument to achieve social cohesion and harmony but have often become a battlefield for conflicting ethical and political positions. This betrays the very notion of human rights, which are universal by nature and should be aimed at uniting, not dividing, society.

Structure of the conference

During the three days of the conference, **plenary sessions** will be held in the morning. These will feature renowned scholars from diverse parts of the world, other legal actors (such as international and constitutional judges or persons involved in legislative/governmental activity), and representatives of the media and of civil society. Simultaneous interpretation (English/Spanish) will be available in all plenary sessions.

The afternoon/early evening will be devoted to **concurrent or parallel sessions**, which can be held in any of these **four languages**: English, Spanish, French and Portuguese (no interpretation will be provided for those sessions). Concurrent sessions will be organized along slots corresponding to five subthemes:

- Legal, constitutional and international framework: various notions of state religious neutrality
- Human Rights and religious traditions
- Conflicts between law and freedom of conscience
- Freedom of religion or belief and other fundamental freedoms
- Designing the future: dignity, equality and religion

Proposals for papers and panels

Members of ICLARS and scholars from all over the world are cordially invited to submit proposals for papers or panels for the parallel sessions. The proposals must be related to one of the specific subjects listed below.

Individuals can make proposals for **papers**.

Institutions and research groups can also make proposals for **panels** linked to the same specific subjects listed below. In the latter case, the proposing institution or research group —subject to the organizing committee’s approval— will design the subject of the panel and appoint the speakers. The proposing institution or research group will be mentioned as one of the conference sponsors provided it takes care of the registration fees and attendance of the speakers.

The **deadline** for responses to this first call for papers and panels is **30 November 2019**. If there is still space available, a second call may be opened in January 2020. Proposals should be addressed to: iclars2020@ucm.es

Specific subjects for papers or panels proposals

Proposals for panels or individual papers must refer to one of the following specific subjects.

1. Relationship between international and national jurisdictions
2. The design of the public space
3. Legal pluralism and jurisdictional boundaries state/religion
4. Relationships between religious minorities and majorities
5. Inter-religious dialogue
6. Human dignity in and across religious traditions
7. Crisis of majority churches or religions
8. Religious heritage
9. Marriage and family relationships
10. Religious symbols
11. Legal personality of religious or belief groups
12. Places of worship and meeting
13. Ministers of worship
14. Freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) at the working place and the public service
15. FoRB and the protection of human life
16. Education and teaching
17. Proselytism
18. FoRB and private business
19. FoRB and Freedom of Expression (including hate speech)
20. FoRB and the right to the respect for private and family life
21. Women’s rights
22. FoRB and security
23. Human dignity, FoRB, and new technologies
24. FoRB, immigration and refugees
25. FoRB and minors
26. Best practices to protect and promote human dignity

OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Venue, travel and accommodation

The **venue** of the conference will be the Palace of Congresses of Cordoba, a historical 16th century building, recently renewed and remodelled, which is a few steps away from the unique Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1984.

Cordoba does not have an airport but is very well connected by **high-speed trains** to three international airports: Madrid, Malaga and Seville (Spain has the best high-speed train network in Europe and one of the best in the world). Trains from Madrid take about 1 h. 40 min., from Malaga around 50 min., and from Seville around 40 min.

The organizing committee will provide a list of recommended **hotels** with special rates, located within walking distance of the conference venue, in the heart of the historic district of Cordoba. To facilitate booking, these hotels can be contacted through the conference's official travel agency (Eurocongres). The same agency will also gladly assist any participants who want help organizing their trip, but participants are free to contact these or any other hotels by themselves.

All participants are expected to pay for their travel and accommodation expenses as well as for registration fees.

Fees. Cultural agenda

Registration fees will be shortly announced. They will cover:

- All expenses relating to the conference's organization;
- Three lunches (7, 8 and 9 September);
- Two dinners (7 and 8 September);
- The conference's cultural agenda.

A moderate supplement will be requested from those wishing to attend the final gala dinner, on 9 September, which will be held in the old theatre of a classical social club of Cordoba (*Círculo de la Amistad*), founded in the mid 19th century.

Dietary restrictions for religious, health or other reasons will be taken into account if they are communicated in good time.

Cordoba is a beautiful and vibrant city with a history that dates back to Roman times, more than two thousand years ago. The conference will have a daily cultural agenda after the academic program that will include a private guided evening visit to the Mosque-Cathedral.

For those interested in creating a cultural itinerary of their own, before or after the conference, whether in Cordoba or in nearby cities of Andalusia, the web pages mentioned below will publish additional information and the contact details of a reliable tourist agency.

Information and contact

Updated information on the conference will be published in this website, starting in a few weeks: <http://www.iclars2020cordoba.org/>

For email contact and inquiries use the following addresses (and, please, indicate the appropriate subject to facilitate organization):

- Paper and panel proposals: iclars2020@ucm.es
- Academic program (Prof. María José Valero, Prof. Silvia Meseguer): mjvalero@pdi.ucm.es, smeseguer@der.ucm.es, iclars2020@ucm.es
- Registration: iclarsreg@eurocongres.es
- Accommodation, travel and tourism: iclarshr@eurocongres.es
- Miscellanea and Webpage: iclars2020@eurocongres.es