Research Seminar
Institute for Ethics & Society

A/Prof. John Rees
Human Flourishing and ‘The Good That Governments Do’: A postsecular reading of state authority

Speaker

Dr. John Rees is Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations (IR), School of Arts & Sciences at UNDA Sydney and Convener of the Religion and Global Affairs Program at the Institute for Ethics and Society. John’s research is situated at the intersection of IR and political theology. He is a recognised scholar of religion in world politics and the curator of The Religion Gap blog on E-International Relations, the world’s leading website for students and scholars of international politics. John holds a PhD in IR from the University of New South Wales and postgraduate degrees in theology (by research), international relations and ancient history.

Abstract

The paper offers an interpretation of the influential New Testament text of Rom 13:1-7 in the context of contemporary theories of the state and civil society. It is argued that the political hermeneutics drawn from the text and its wider canonical contexts hold potential to inform Christian communities of an imperative that the modern state create the conditions of human flourishing (as goodness and conscience) for all citizens.

Date: Wednesday 5th August, 2015 (Semester 2, Week 2)
Time: 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm
Venue: Directors' Boardroom, Pioneer House (NDS5-402)

For further enquiries please email ies@nd.edu.au