

The Idea of Human Rights: Religious or Secular?



A public lecture by Dr. Richard Amesbury
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Contemporary theories of human rights have tended to be avowedly secular – if not hostile to religion – in spite of the fact that many activists are themselves religious people who conceive their political efforts in distinctly religious terms. Is the relation between religion and human rights fundamentally adversarial, or do religious traditions harbor moral resources that can be invoked on behalf of human dignity? Is the universality inherent in the concept of “human rights” compatible with the particularity and plurality of the determinate religious faiths?

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