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Silvia Sansonetti

Silvia Sansonetti (Ph.D. in Socio-Economic and Statistical Studies) is a Researcher at the University of Rome 'La Sapienza'. Since 2005 she has been the scientific director of the 'Observatory on Secularization' project sponsored by the Critica Liberale Foundation and CGIL (the biggest Italian Trade Union).

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Mark Silk

Director of the Leonard E. Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life and Professor of Religion in Public Life at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

Professor Silk has B.A. from Harvard College and Ph.D. in medieval history from Harvard University. He was former editor of the *Boston Review* and journalist at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. In 1998 he became founding editor of *Religion in the News*, a magazine published by the Greenberg Center that examines how the news media handle religious subject matter. Professor Silk is co-editor of *Religion by Region*, an eight-volume series on religion and public life in the United States.

Binnaz Toprak

Professor, and Chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey.

She has written extensively, both in Turkish and English, on political Islam in Turkey. Her works include, *Islam and Political Development in Turkey*, Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1981, and two recent articles, "Islam and Democracy in Turkey", *Turkish Studies*, Vol. 6, No.2, June 2005, 167-186, and "Economic Development versus Cultural Transformation: Projects of Modernity in Japan and Turkey" *New Perspectives on Turkey*, No. 35, Fall, 2006, 85-128. She has also jointly conducted three recent research projects based on survey research that probed into the attitudes of the Turkish public towards Islam, secularism, and women.



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Professor of Engineering at the University of Granada, Spain. He is Member of the Executive Committee of Europa Laica, as the representative of Andalucia.

During a two-year post-doctoral stay in U.S.A. (Brown University) at the beginning of the 1990s he came into contact with the American secular movement. Years later he joined the recently formed secular organization in Spain called Europa Laica and since then has actively participated. He helped to launch the local association Granada Laica, which is battling for the separation of church(es) and state locally.

Emilio Gentile

Emilio Gentile is Professor of Political Science at the University of Rome La Sapienza and Principal Lecturer in History at the Trinity Rome Campus. He is a distinguished historian of fascism, best known for his interpretation of fascism as a "political religion." He is the author of several books, including *The Sacralization of Politics in Fascist Italy* (Harvard University Press), *The Struggle for Modernity: Nationalism, Futurism, and Fascism* (Praeger). In 2003 he was awarded the Hans Sigrist Prize by the University of Bern for his studies on political religions.

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Frank Pasquale

Research Associate with the Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture since 2005. He earned his doctorate in cultural anthropology (Northwestern University), and masters degrees in cultural anthropology (Northwestern University) and experimental social psychology (Western Washington University). He was a Research Fellow at the East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, working on cultural patterning of communication in Chinese, Japanese, and U. S. American cultures. He is currently engaged in a research project on the worldviews, personal behavior, and organizational life of the "nonreligious" in the American Northwest and the United States.