

## ARE WE LIVING IN A POST-SECULAR WORLD?

Over the course of the past decade, and amidst an observed resurgence of public religious expression, this term has gained mounting currency. Does its invocation imply that we have left behind a secular existence and are now experiencing an altogether different era? Or does it instead demarcate a theoretical turn away from the once-pervasive secularization theory? To call the present a “post-secular” era may reflect a change in actual religious sentiment, adherence, and action across the globe—a real transformation in that which is observed—or it may simply signify a redirection of scholarly attention—an adjustment in the gaze of those who are making the observations. *The Post-Secular in Question* intervenes in the current high-profile debates around secularism, considering whether there has been a religious resurgence of global dimensions in recent decades. The question of the post-secular opens an expansive field of questions regarding the place of religion and secularism in the modern world as well as the approach of scholars toward both of these subjects.

This collection of original essays by leading academics represents an interdisciplinary intervention in the continuing and ever-transforming discussion of the role of religion and secularism in today’s world. Foregrounding the most urgent and compelling questions raised by the place of religion in the social sciences, past and present, *The Post-Secular in Question* restores religion to a more central place in social scientific thinking about the world, helping to move scholarship “beyond unbelief.”

**Philip S. Gorski** is Professor of Sociology at Yale University and author of *The Protestant Ethic Revisited*.

**David Kyuman Kim** is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and American Studies at Connecticut College, author of *Melancholic Freedom: Agency and the Spirit of Politics*, and editor-at-large of *The Immanent Frame*.

**John Torpey** is Professor of Sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and author of *Making Whole What Has Been Smashed: On Reparations Politics*.

**Jonathan VanAntwerpen** is Director of the Religion and the Public Sphere program at the Social Science Research Council, co-editor of *The Power of Religion in the Public Sphere*, and editor-in-chief of *The Immanent Frame*.

"In the last two decades we have witnessed constant deconstructions and reconstructions of the categories of religion, the secular, and now the post-secular. This volume is the best entry I know to the whole debate. It serves both as a perfect illustration of the shifting terrain and as a helpful analytical guide to its exploration."

—**José Casanova**, author of *Public Religions in the Modern World*

"The quality of almost all the chapters of this book is unusually high. One can learn things one didn't know and see them in a way one hadn't thought of by reading this diverse but very stimulating collection. The book does not solve the murky problem of the secular, much less the post-secular, but it gives new ways of thinking about them that have great promise as our work on these issues goes forward."

—**Robert Bellah**, author of *Religion in Human Evolution:*

*From the Paleolithic to the Axial Age*

**Contributors:** Courtney Bender, Craig Calhoun, Michele Dillon, Philip S. Gorski, David Kyuman Kim, Richard Madsen, Kathleen Mahoney, Tomoko Masuzawa, Eduardo Mendieta, John Schmalzbauer, James K. A. Smith, John Torpey, Bryan S. Turner, Jonathan VanAntwerpen, Hent de Vries.