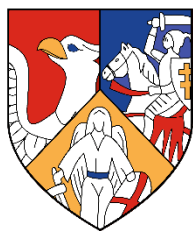


# Natural Law, Religious Conflict, and the problem of War and Peace in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Europe



University of Aberdeen

30 September–1 October 2022



RESEARCH CENTRE FOR  
POLISH-LITHUANIAN  
STUDIES



Consulate General  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Edinburgh

## **The Research Centre for Polish-Lithuanian Studies.**

### **University of Aberdeen**

The Research Centre for Polish-Lithuanian Studies provides a unique focus for the study of the history, culture, and legacy of the Polish-Lithuanian Union in a comparative context. It aims to develop new approaches to research into the history and culture of east-central Europe and seeks to break down the predominant nationalist narratives of east European history through a transnational approach to the historical and cultural legacy of one of the longest-lasting political unions in European history.

### **The Symposium**

The shattering of the unity of Latin Christendom in the sixteenth century called into question the natural law tradition that had been developed within the Catholic tradition, most notably by Thomas Aquinas. Religious division brought challenges at home and in international relations to which there were no easy answers. One of the major issues that arose with Humanism and religious conflict was the relationship between civic liberties, including individual freedom of conscience, and the constitution of government. Domestically, the threat of civil disobedience and civil war was ever present. Attempts to restore internal stability through legal acts of toleration, such as the Peace of Augsburg, the Warsaw Confederation, or the Edict of Nantes were uneasy and precarious compromises that raised profound questions within the natural law tradition. Internationally, religious division disrupted traditional alliances, as notions concerning the abstract state and state sovereignty were developed by writers from Machiavelli and Botero to Grotius, Pufendorf, Hobbes and beyond, posing challenges for those seeking to develop a law of nations within the natural law tradition. This symposium considers these issues from the perspective of theorists of natural law, and by looking at the practical implications for and within individual polities.

The Centre is grateful to the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Edinburgh, which is sponsoring this symposium.

**Registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/natural-law-and-religious-conflict-in-early-modern-europe-tickets-415479960747>

**The symposium will also be live streamed over MS Teams. Those wishing to attend online should contact [robert.frost@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:robert.frost@abdn.ac.uk)**



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# Programme

## Friday 30 September

18:00–19:30

Room 224, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sir Duncan Rice Library

### Keynote Lecture

Chair: Karin Friedrich (Aberdeen)

<b>Robert Frost (Aberdeen)</b>	Renaissance Republicanism, <i>Ius Gentium</i> and Natural Law. The Polish-Lithuanian Republic and International Relations after 1569
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19:30–21:00: Reception

Meeting Room 3, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sir Duncan Rice Library

## Saturday 1 October

Meeting Room 1, William Craig Suite, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sir Duncan Rice Library

11:00–12:30: Session 1

Chair: Michael Brown (Aberdeen)

<b>Brad Bow (Aberdeen)</b>	The Natural Law Tradition at King's and Marischal Colleges.
<b>Ian Campbell (Belfast)</b>	Catholic and Protestant Natural Law in the Seventeenth Century: The evidence from university debate on just war

12:30–14:00 Lunch

2:00–3:30: Session 2

Chair: Karin Friedrich (Aberdeen)

<b>Steffen Huber (Cracow)</b>	Social Tension and Religious War in the mid-seventeenth century. Natural Law and the Philosophical Reaction of Vilnius Jesuit thinkers.
<b>Gábor Gángó (Erfurt/Padua)</b>	Christian Natural Law and the Reception of Grotius in the Intellectual circles of Johann Christian von Boineburg.

15:30–16:00: Coffee

16:00–17:30: Session 3: Practical Implications

Chair: Brad Bow (Aberdeen)



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<b>Karin Friedrich (Aberdeen)</b>	Rulership between common good and self-interest: Natural law and urban crisis management in early modern East Central Europe
<b>Josh Racey (Aberdeen)</b>	The Dutch Occupation of London, 1688–1689: the Laws of War in Practice.

**17:45–19:00: Roundtable**

**Chair: Robert Frost (Aberdeen)**

**Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Court of St James's;**

**Michael Brown (Aberdeen); Guy Rowlands (St Andrews)**

**19:30: Dinner**

**The Royal Northern & University Club, 9 Albyn Place**



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## Participants

<p><b>Brad Bow</b> is an intellectual historian of America, Scotland and Britain during the long eighteenth century, with a broader interest in the global contexts of Enlightenment intellectual and moral culture. He completed a PhD in the fields of Enlightenment History and Scottish Diaspora Studies at the University of Edinburgh in 2012. During the 2012-13 academic year, he held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) and an adjunct lecturing position at Edinburgh University. At that time, he also served as the Acting Director of the MSc Intellectual History programme and organised research activities for the Carnegie Trust funded project ‘Scotland’s Trans-Atlantic Relations’ (STAR). He was an Assistant Professor of Global Intellectual History at Yonsei University (Seoul, South Korea) between 2014 and 2019, before his appointment to a lectureship in History in Aberdeen in August 2019. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, and Distinguished Shinhan Professor at Yonsei University.</p>	<p><b>Gábor Gángó</b> is an Associated Fellow of the Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies at the University of Erfurt, a Research Fellow at the Institute of Philosophy of the Research Centre for the Humanities, Budapest, as well as at the Department of Historical and Geographic Sciences and the Ancient World (DiSSGeA) at the University of Padua. He has published widely on Leibniz and Eastern Europe, and in particular on Leibniz and the Polish-Lithuanian royal election of 1669. He is currently researching Johann Christian von Boineburg, Samuel Pufendorf, and the foundations myth of Natural Law in early modern Europe. He is the editor of the collection <i>Natural law in Eastern Europe</i>, which is forthcoming with Brill.</p>
<p><b>Michael Brown</b> holds a chair in Irish, Scottish and Enlightenment History at the University of Aberdeen. A graduate of Trinity College Dublin, where he studied history for his BA (Mod) and PhD, he has worked at the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies and the Department of Modern History at Trinity and in the Combined Departments of History at University College Dublin. He is Co-Director of Aberdeen University’s Research Institute for Irish and Scottish Studies, and Dean for Research Governance and Cultural Strategy. He lectures and has published widely on Irish, Scottish, British, and Enlightenment history, including studies of Frances Hutcheson and John Toland. His major study of the <i>Irish Enlightenment</i> was published by Harvard University Press in 2016. He is now working on British identity formation in the eighteenth century, and writing a textbook for Routledge entitled <i>A Cultural History of Europe, 1688-1914</i>.</p>	<p><b>Steffen Huber</b> holds a chair in the Zakład Historii Filozofii Polskiej at the Institute of Philosophy of the Jagiellonian University, Cracow, and is visiting Aberdeen in the autumn semester as a Bednarowski Fellow. He has published widely on Polish-Lithuanian political philosophy in the early modern period, in particular on the thought of Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski. His scholarly work also focuses on Polish-Lithuanian Protestantism, in particular Antitrinitarianism in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. He is currently leading a major research project on <i>Polonica Philosophica Orientalis</i>, an intellectual geography of eastern Europe, in collaboration with scholars from Poland, Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine.</p>
<p><b>Ian Campbell</b> Ian Campbell is Senior Lecturer in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queen’s University Belfast. He is currently writing a history of Franciscan political thought in seventeenth-century Rome, and editing a collection of Franciscan writings on warfare. With Dr Floris Verhaart, he recently published <i>Protestant Politics beyond Calvin: Reformed Theologians on War in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries</i> (Routledge, 2022).</p>	<p><b>Josh Racey</b> has just completed his M Litt degree in History at Aberdeen University, during which he wrote an 18,000-word dissertation on the 18-month occupation of London by a Dutch army after the 1688 Revolution. He plans to expand his study of the episode into a PhD.</p>



**Karin Friedrich** is Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Aberdeen. She was awarded her PhD at Georgetown University under the supervision of Andrzej Kamiński. She worked at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, before coming to Aberdeen in 2005 where she also became co-director of the Centre for Early Modern Studies. She has published on Polish and Prussian history of ideas, religion, identity and urban culture. Her books include *The Other Prussia. Royal Prussia, Poland and Liberty*, which was awarded the 2001 Orbis book prize for Polish Studies, and a History of Brandenburg-Prussia (2011). She is currently finalising a study of Bogusław Radziwiłł as a supra-national aristocrat, and serving as President of the German History Society.

**Guy Rowlands** is Professor of History at the University of St Andrews. His research interests lie in the history of war; in the emergence of the modern European state in the late 17th and early 18th centuries during an era of intense warfare; and the nature and development of international relations in the period 1598-1792. His primary focus thus far has been upon France, the greatest power of the age, during the personal rule of Louis XIV (1661-1715) and the regency for Louis XV (1715-23). His work has so far looked primarily at the armed forces and the financial systems associated with the French state during this period. He is now widening the scope of his research to take in the longer time-frame of 1589-1789, while also increasing his geographical range to take in aspects of the history of Britain, the Holy Roman Empire, northern Italy, the Spanish empire and Switzerland.

**Robert Frost** holds the Burnett Fletcher chair of history at the University of Aberdeen, where he is Director of the new Research Centre in Polish-Lithuanian Studies. He has an MA (Honours) from St Andrews University, and a diploma in Polish Language and Culture from the Jagiellonian University. He wrote his doctorate under the supervision of Norman Davies at London University, and taught at King's College London before moving to Aberdeen in 2004. His books include *The Northern Wars* (2000) and *The Making of the Polish-Lithuanian Union, 1385–1569*, the first volume of his *Oxford History of the Polish-Lithuanian Union*, and a study of the supposed portrait of Bonnie Prince Charlie in Polish dress for Palgrave USA. Volume 1 of the *Oxford History* was awarded the 2017 *Pro Historia Polonorum* prize.

**Piotr Wilczek** is currently the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Court of St James's, having previously served as Ambassador to the United States (2016–2021). Before entering the diplomatic service, he established an international reputation as a scholar of comparative literature, with a special interest in the Polish-Lithuanian Reformation and its literature, and as a literary translator. He did postgraduate work in intellectual history and neo-Latin Studies at St Anne's College, Oxford and the University of Łódź. After teaching at the University of Silesia, he was appointed in 2008 to a full chair in the Faculty *Artes Liberales* at the University of Warsaw. He has been a visiting professor at UEA, Rice University, the University of Chicago, Boston College, and has delivered invited public lectures at Harvard and the University of Texas at Austin.

