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انون والدين في المجتمعات متعددة الثقافات

多元化社会中的法与宗教

**LAW, RELIGION  
AND THE SPREAD  
OF COVID-19  
PANDEMIC**

EDITED BY  
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## INTRODUCTION

Fabio Balsamo - Daniela Tarantino

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected many aspects of our lives, in many ways, all over the world. Public authorities in most countries have been taking a series of measures which they have deemed necessary to prevent or control the spread of the disease. Most of those measures correspond to a situation of “emergency”.

Therefore, the second book of the DiReSoM papers "*Law, Religion and the Spread of Covid-19 Pandemic*", created in continuity with the previous one, maintains the commitment of the DiReSoM research group to reflect on the study of the interaction between religion, law and Covid-19. This reflection continues to take place also on the website ([www.DiReSoM.net](http://www.DiReSoM.net)) aimed at collecting legislation, jurisprudence and contributions relating to the impact of public restrictive measures adopted during the phases of the health emergency on the exercise of religious freedom and the reactions of religious communities in the face of such pervasive measures limiting the collective dimension of the exercise of worship. The book collects the contributions previously published online and aims to constitute an easy consultation tool for those wishing to deepen the interrelation between pandemic and "legal reactions", both secular and religious.

After the introduction, the book is divided into two parts. The first part is divided into three sections.

The first section, "Law and Religion" contains four contributions, which analyze the tension between law and religion during the Covid-19 emergency and the effects of the health crisis in the long run.

The second section, "State Law", consists of four contributions, focused on the impact of restrictive measures of collective exercise of religious freedom in several legal systems, examining the different answers ordinances offered in different contexts legal, social and cultural.

Finally, the third section collects five essays that investigate the attitude assumed by religious communities against restrictive measures state imposed and the more or less marked capacity of rights religious to adapt their rules internal to the emergency situation.

In its second part, to complete and integrate the issues addressed in the first, the contributions made in the Panel "*Law and Religion at the time of Covid-19*" of the 2020 edition of the International Conference of the European Academy of Religion are collected, on the theme "*The Power of Religion / Religion and Power*". Created this year in the form of a Webinar from 22 to 25 June 2020, the Panel held on 24 June - and divided into three sections (The dialogue between States and Religious Groups, The Covid-19 Pandemic and the Courts, Religious Law and Interreligious Dialogue) - was an extraordinary international opportunity for scholars and hermeneuts of the religious phenomenon to meet and reflect, through critical reading, communication, sharing and exchange open to civil society, on the main religious issues, in particular in the context of epochal transformation that humanity is going through.

The book is enriched by the Position Paper “*To continue celebrating safely: reordering the emergency*”, that the DiReSoM Research Group submits to the Italian Government and religious institutions, appropriately inserted in the second part. This position paper reflects on the possibility of allowing the celebrations of religious ceremonies in compliance with the measures necessary to prevent the contagion of the Sars-Cov-2 virus, the cause of Covid-19 disease. The DPCM dated 13 October 2020 (substantially replied in the subsequent one on 24 October) updated the measures to contain the contagion through both real rules and some recommendations, to prevent the suspension of certain fundamental rights, which unfortunately characterized the measures of the so-called 'Phase 1' and 'Phase 2'.

The contributions of the book therefore tackle highly topical questions, developing key issues relating to the controversial relationship between the protection of public health and the protection of religious freedom during the Covid-19 Pandemic, offering original food for thought in relation to new challenges and to new potential legal trajectories in the management of religious diversity, substantial equality and neutrality policies in a democratic society.

As scholars engaged in the study of the legal regulation of the religious phenomenon, we decided to create a web space ([www.diresom.net](http://www.diresom.net)) to collect documents, comments and other useful materials related to the Covid-19 emergency, in order to assess the outcomes of the normative decisions made by state and religious authorities. By the end of April, we had already published more than 600 documents and comments related to this issue, and more than 45.000 unique visitors had surfed our website. In May we have also edited an open source book to share in a more orderly way the comments that we have already published online, thus giving the possibility to consult these guidelines to all those who want to study or analyze the legal reaction both state and religious, to this pandemic. The exponential spread of the Covid-19 Pandemic also in the second part of 2020 suggested us to edit now this second open source book.

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