



**Seminar for judges: The judiciary facing religious pluralism in family matters**  
**5-6 December 2011**  
**Programme**

**5 December 2011**

Venue: *Institut de Formation Judiciaire / Instituut voor Gerechtelijke Opleiding*  
Avenue Louise 54, 1050 Brussels

**9:30 – 10:00 Registration and coffee**

**10:00**

**Welcome**

Institute for Judicial Training and Thalia Kruger (Antwerp, Belgium)

**10:30**

**2. Introduction**

In this session the state-of-the-art is presented. The purpose is to give the setting to start a fruitful session. The session is also used to explain RELIGARE's research, the relevance for judges and the specific goals of the seminar.

Chair: Mathias Rohe (Erlangen, Germany)

**11:30**

**3. Experiences and questions by RELIGARE members**

In this session the RELIGARE researchers will point out some of the striking findings so far and ask judges about their own experiences with cultural and religious diversity in the court room. The researchers will ask the judges’ reactions and take further questions.

Chair: Jørgen Nielsen (Copenhagen, Denmark)

Presentations by RELIGARE’s socio-legal researchers: Veit Bader, Niels Valdemar Vinding, Ashraf-ul Hoque

Presentation on expert evidence in England by Vishal Vora.

**13:00 Lunch**

**14:30**

**4. Judges’ responses and their own questions**

For this session a few judges from different countries (EU and third countries) will be invited to talk of their own experiences and react to the questions and information sketched by the RELIGARE members. All judges present will get the opportunity to also share their experiences.

Speakers:

- Judge Carlos Gomez (Spain)
- Sir Peter Singer (England)
- Lord Justice Andrew McFarlane (England)
- Judge Martine de Maximy (France)
- Judge Peter Scholz (Germany)
- Judge Abdel Omar Sherif (Egypt)
- Vladimiro Zagrebelsky, former judge of the European Court of Human Rights

**17:00 end of day**

\*\*\*\*\*

**17:30 Drink**

**18:00 Evening lecture**

Prof. Maarit Jänterä-Jareborg (Uppsala, Sweden):

***Cross-border family cases and religious diversity: What can/must judges do?***

Venue: Centre for European Policy Studies, 1 Place du Congres, 1000 Brussels

\*\*\*\*\*

## 6 December 2011

Venue: *Institut de Formation Judiciaire / Instituut voor Gerechtelijke Opleiding*  
Avenue Louise 54, 1050 Brussels

9:00

### 5. Reactions by experts

A panel of experts will be invited to react to what they have heard the previous day. These experts must be well-versed on judicial practice and theory. They will therefore also be able to add their own knowledge to what has already been said.

Chair: Prakash Shah (Queen Mary, London)

Panel:

- Werner Menski (SOAS, London)
- Nadjma Yassari (Max Planck Institute Hamburg, Germany)
- Hague Conference on PIL

10:30 Coffee break

11:00

### 6. Final question-and-answer session

Chair: Marie-Claire Foblets (KULeuven, Belgium)

In this session the final word is given again to the participants. Remaining issues can be addressed. This session will also give the judges the opportunity to learn from each other and to identify appropriate practices for hard questions.

13:00

### 7. Conclusion

A synthesis is made of the seminar.

Marie-Claire Foblets (KULeuven, Belgium)

13:30 end