

# Workshop: ‘Liberalism and Religion: Secularisation and the Public Sphere in the Americas.’ 18 April 2012

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**Venue:** Court Room, Senate House, London. **Places Limited:** Please register interest with [deborah.toner@sas.ac.uk](mailto:deborah.toner@sas.ac.uk)

**Description:** The development of political, economic, scientific and cultural spheres separate to and autonomous from the Catholic Church in Latin America during the long nineteenth century was a central aspect of the secularising agenda of liberalism, which contributed to the reformulation of relations between religious institutions, the state, and public life. But this was neither a linear nor an uncontested process. This workshop will explore reformist, laicist, and anticlerical positions towards the Church in Latin American society to highlight the complex processes of negotiation between different groups of liberals and the Church, as well as their effects on the public sphere, examining the emergence of Masonic movements and the impact of Church-State relations on the evolution of citizenship and political identities.

**1.00-1.10pm** Welcome and Introduction

**1.10-2.40pm** Panel 1: South America. Chair: Paulo Drinot (ISA)

*Papers:*

Dr Gregorio Alonso (Leeds University), “Prolegomena to Atlantic Catholic Citizenship”

Prof. Roberto di Stefano (Universidad de Buenos Aires), “Liberalismo y religión en el siglo XIX hispanoamericano. Reflexiones a partir del caso argentino.”

*Commentator:* Dr Austen Ivereigh (Catholic Voices)

**2.40-3.00pm** Tea/coffee break

**3.00-4.30pm** Panel 2: Mexico and Central America. Chair: Deborah Toner (ISA)

*Papers*

Prof. Ricardo Martínez Esquivel (Universidad de Costa Rica), “Modernity and Freemasonry in 19th Century Central America.”

Dr Trevor Stack (Aberdeen University), “Scholasticism, Liberalism, Revolutionary Nationalism and Neoliberalism in Mexico.”

*Commentator:* Dr Natalia Sobrevilla Perea (University of Kent).