

## Speakers' Biographies



**Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi** is President of the Pontifical Council for Culture and of the Pontifical Commission of Sacred Archaeology. He has some 150 volumes published mainly on biblical topics. He is also earned popular fame for his writings “Breve storia dell’anima”, “Le sorgenti di Dio”, Ritorno alle virtù”, “500 curiosità della fede”, “Questioni di fede” and “Le Parole del mattino”. He has his own television activity with the Sunday programme “Le frontiere dello Spirito” on the Italian mainstream Canale 5.



**Rajeev Bhargava** is Senior Fellow and Director of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, India. He was Professor of Political Theory at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.. His works on political theory, multiculturalism, identity politics and secularism have evoked sharp debates. His publications include “Individualism in Social Science”, “Secularism and its critics” and “Multiculturalism, Liberalism and Democracy”. He has previously been a Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru



**Olivier Roy** is Professor of Social and Political Theory at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. His field works include Political Islam, Middle East, Islam in the West and comparative religions. He is the author of “Globalized Islam” and more recently of “La Sainte Ignorance”. He has acted as a consultant to the French Foreign Ministry, UN and OSCE.



**Amel Boubekeur** is visiting Fellow at Brookings Doha Centre, Qatar. Her research focuses on Maghreb country politics, democratisation in the Arab world, Euro-Arab/US–Arab relations, and Islam in Europe. She is the author of “Whatever Happened to the Islamists?”, “European Islam: The Challenges for Society and Public Policy,” and “Le voile de la mariée”. Boubekeur is a regular consultant for various United Nations agencies, the European Commission, and the Open Society Institute.



**Hakan Yilmaz** teaches at the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey. He teaches and publishes in the area of contemporary Turkish politics and culture, EU-Turkey relations, issues of culture and identity in European integration.



**H.E. Ambassador Nigel Baker** is British Ambassador to the Holy See. He was appointed in April 2011. Mr Baker is a career member of Her Majesty’s Diplomatic Service. He joined the FCO in 1989, since when his career has taken him principally to Central Europe and Latin America, most recently as British Ambassador to Bolivia. Mr Baker also worked in the Private Office of HRH The Prince of Wales from 2003 to 2006. Between 1996 and 1998 he lived and worked in Italy on an academic sabbatical.



**Daniel Cere** is Professor of Religious Studies and researcher on religion, law, and ethics at McGill University, Montreal, Canada. He also serves as the director of the Institute for the Study of Marriage Law and Culture and Co-Director of the Newman Institute of Catholic Studies. Cere has been a consultant for government and religious institutions on issues of religious freedom, reasonable accommodation, and family law in both Canada and the United States.



**Ian Leigh** is Professor of Law at Durham Law School, United Kingdom. His research interests span legal aspects of national security, local government law, human rights and religious liberty. He is author of four monographs and has edited a further three books. The second edition of his book (with Rex Ahdar) Religious Freedom in the Liberal State is to be published by Oxford University Press in May 2013. He has acted as a consultant for the Council of Europe (Venice Commission), UNDP and OSCE.



**Ian Linden** is Director of Policy at the TBFF, formerly director of the Social Action Programme, Faiths Act, and an associate professor in the Study of Religion at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in the University of London. He has published a number of books on religion in Africa and, recently, two major studies on faith and globalisation, “A New Map of the World and Global Catholicism”. He was, for fifteen years, director of the Catholic Institute for International Relations and was awarded the CMG for work for human rights in 2000.